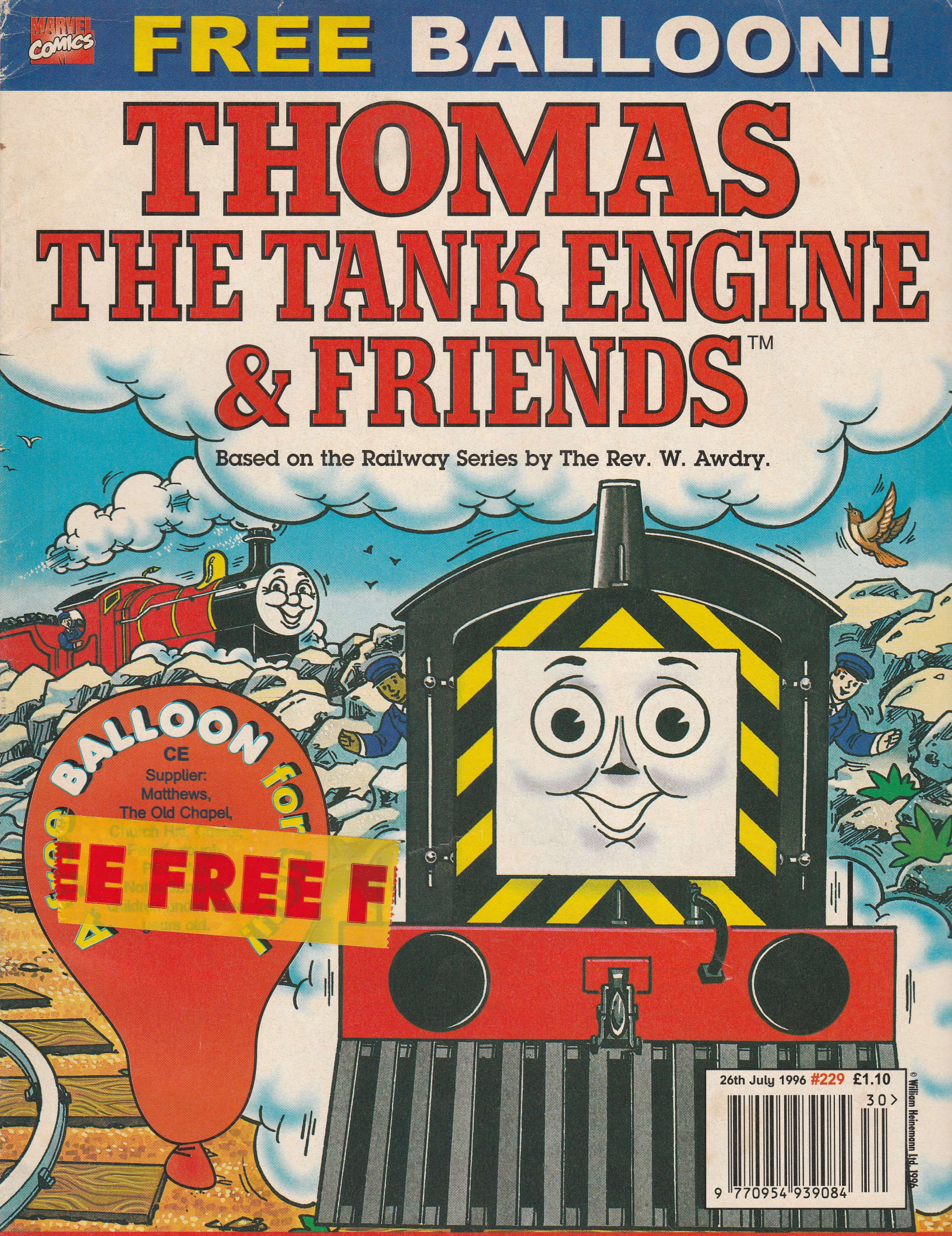
MARVEL COMICS

FREE BALLOON!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



26th July 1996 #229 £1.10
30>
9 770954 939084

© William Heinemann Ltd. 1996

New stories! Great puzzles! Fun colouring!

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 The Hay Engine!

8 Duck's maze!

10 Flag Waving!

12 Singing In The Rain!

16 All about Bill & Ben!

18 Lost Property!

21 Join the dots!

22 Competition!

23 Lost luggage!

24 Proud Mavis!

28 Mail train!

32 Photo album: Skarloey

Island of Sodor Railway

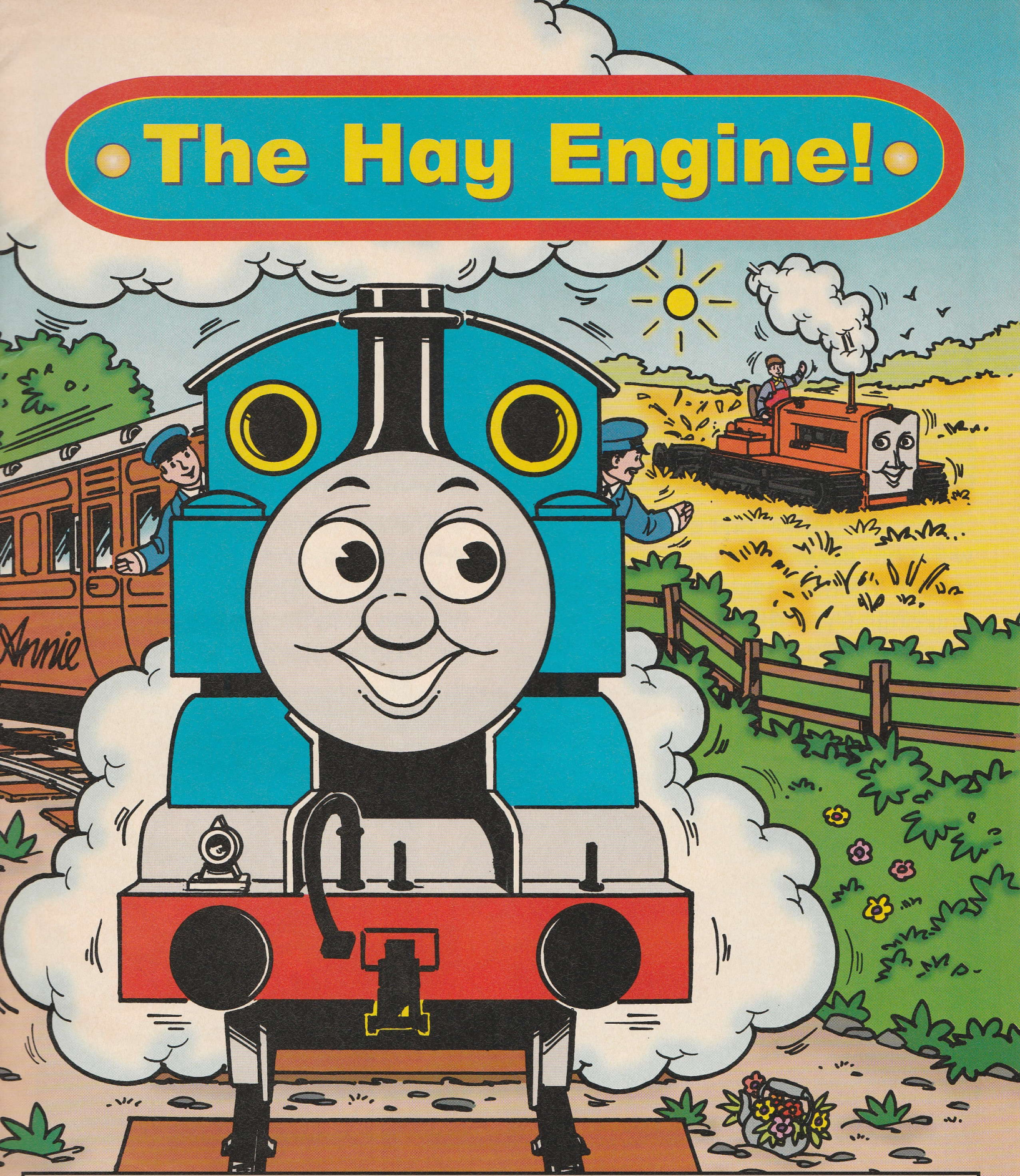
This comic belongs to .....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director:Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Catherine Ard & Karen Brown; Project Leader: Ciara Mulvany; Art Director: Helen Nally; Designer: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

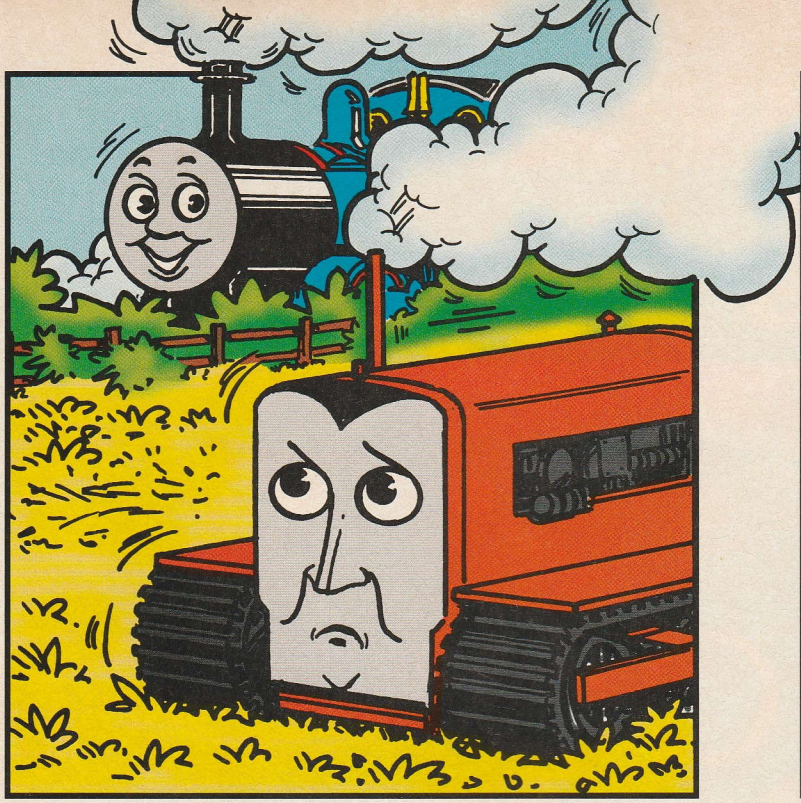
Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

The Hay Engine!

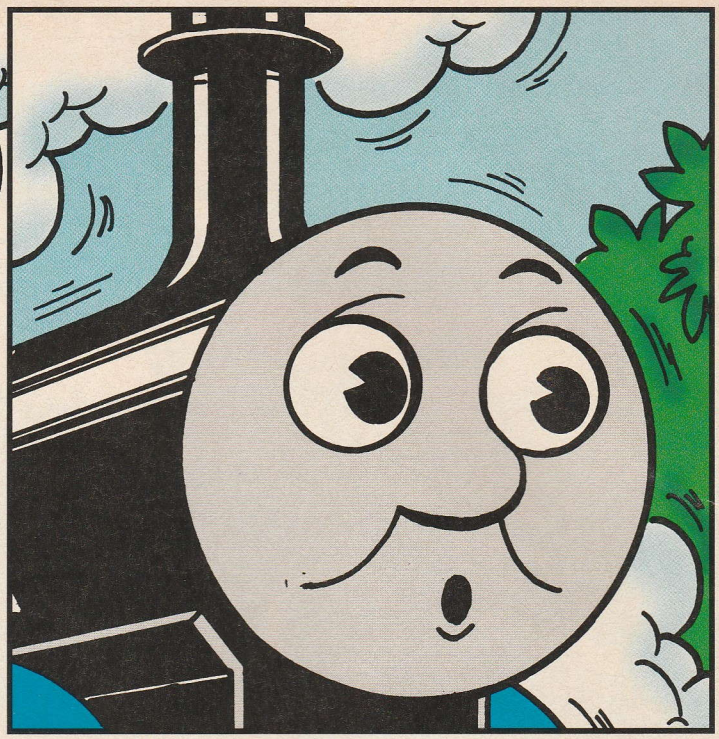


1. It was summer on the Island of Sodor. Each day, as Thomas steamed up and down his branch line through the countryside, he saw Terence the Tractor cutting hay in the fields.

2. When it had dried, Terence pulled a special machine that tied the hay into big bundles, known as bales. "It's not only engines who have to work hard, Thomas," called Terence.



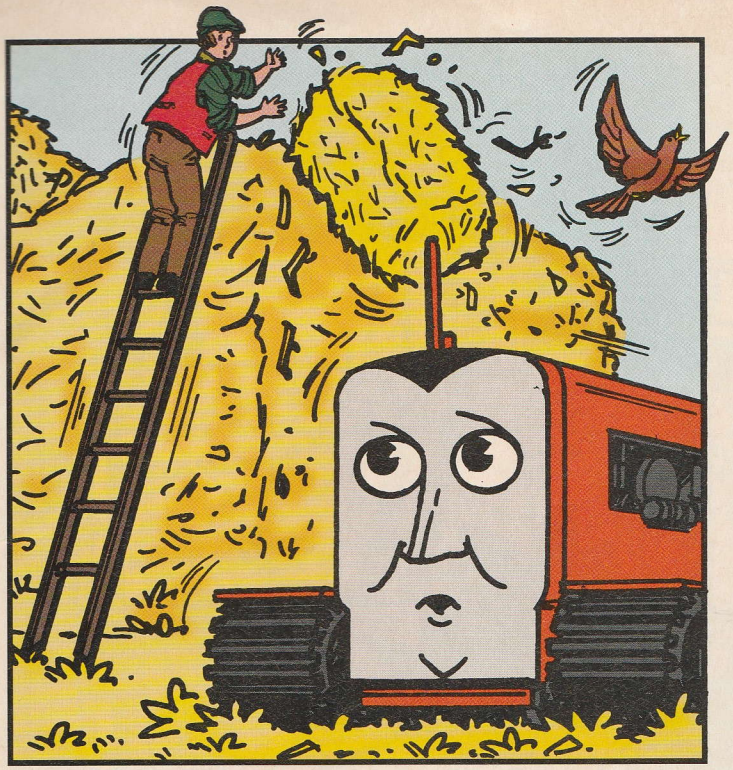
3. "It's a pity you can't go any faster with your slow caterpillar treads," replied Thomas, playfully. "Why, any engine could leave you standing!" "Cheek!" said Terence.



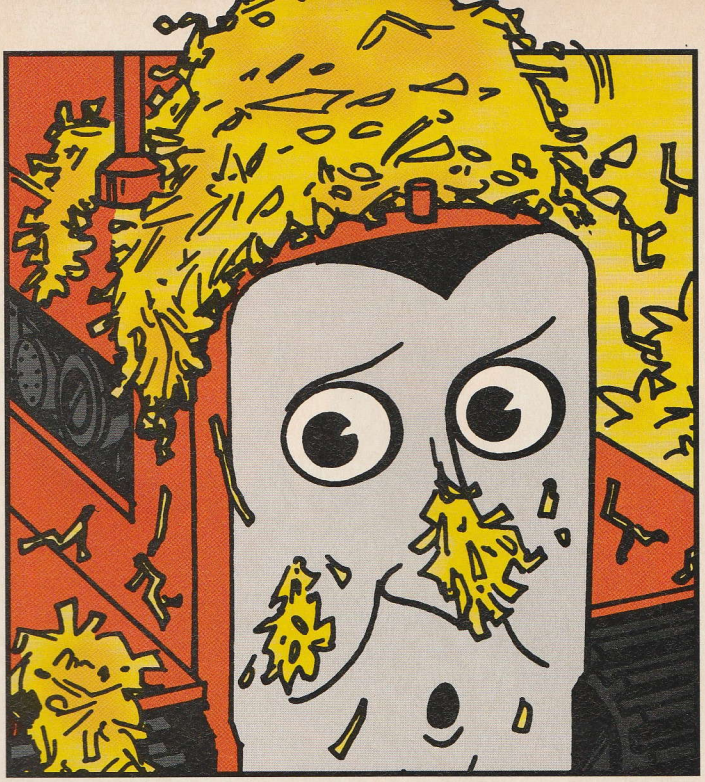
4. Thomas continued on his journey. When he returned, Terence had collected lots of bales. The farmer and his men were piling them high into the air. Thomas was puzzled.

5. Then Thomas pulled up nearby to wait for a signal to change. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas. "Why are they building a huge hay house?" he asked Terence.

6. "It's called a haystack not a house!" the tractor explained. "That's how the farmer stores his hay to feed his animals in the winter. Anyone knows that!"

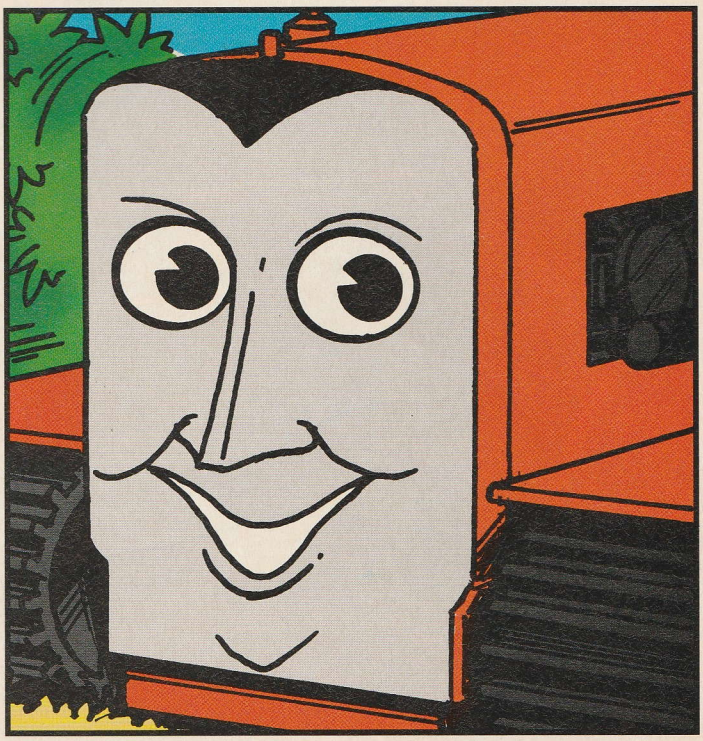


7. "Well, I didn't," snorted Thomas. Suddenly, the farmer dropped one of the bales, by mistake. It toppled towards Terence. "Look out!" cried the farmer. Terence was startled.



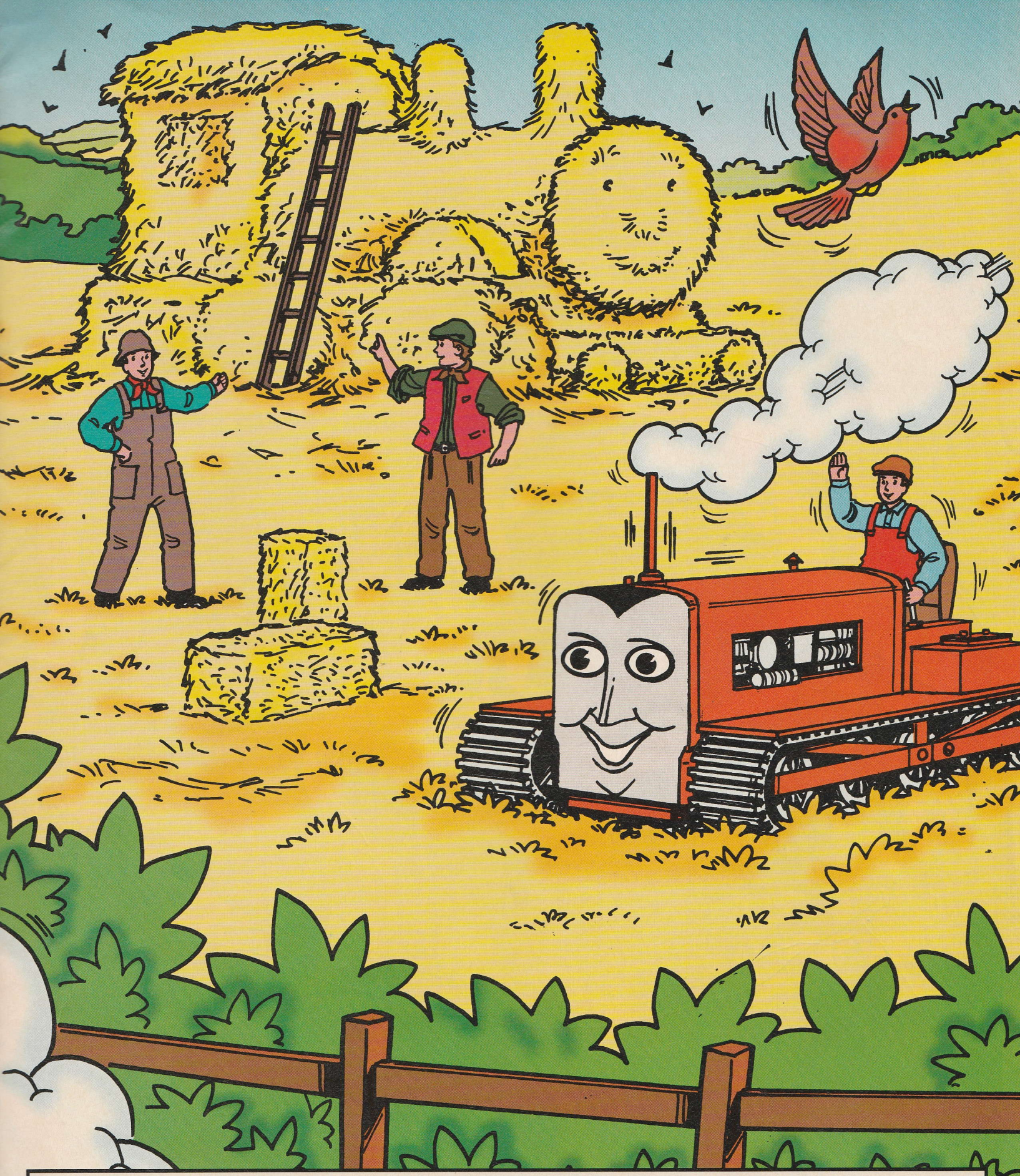
8. The bale landed on top of him and broke open. Luckily, the tractor was not hurt but he was covered in hay. "You look like a hay tractor!" joked Thomas, puffing on his way again.

9. The farmer helped Terence's driver to clean up the tractor. "There's still plenty of hay to cut and stack," said the farmer. Before long, Terence moved to another field.

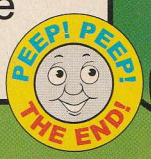


10. A few days later, he collected more hay bales, ready for storing. "Time to build another haystack," said the farmer. "I've a better idea," Terence told his driver.

11. When the farmer heard, he smiled and agreed. "That will look very unusual!" he said. Thomas had not seen Terence for a time. Daisy carryed passengers along Thomas' branch line while the little tank engine took the Seaside Special. Later, Thomas was back on his own line. Soon he had to stop at another signal near Terence.

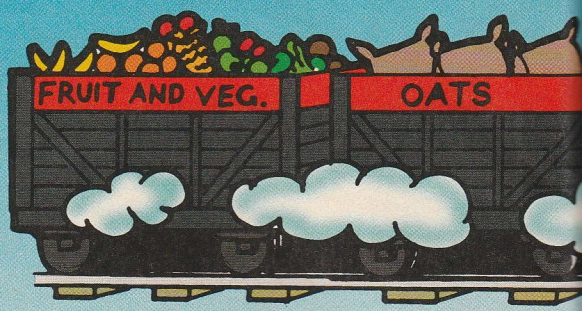


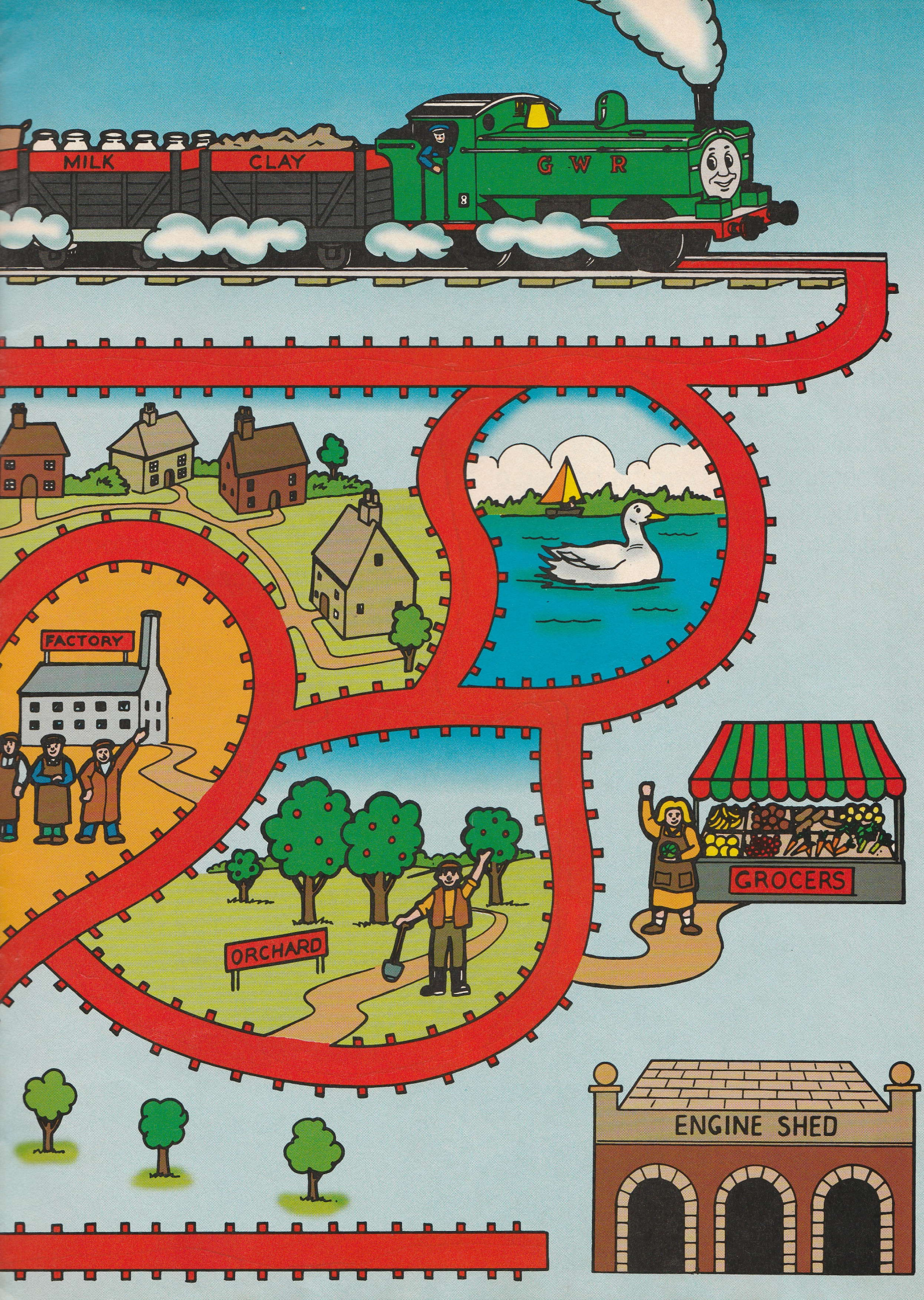
12. Thomas stared at something very strange in the field. "That's a funny haystack," he cried. "It's a hay engine!" laughed Terence. "Even I haven't seen one of those before! I thought of it, after you called me a hay tractor." "It's better than a haystack," laughed Thomas. "Tractors can only go slowly but that engine can't move at all!" joked Terence.



Duck's deliveries!

Duck has a busy day! He has to take the clay to the factory, the milk to the school, the oats to the stables and the fruit and vegetables to the grocers. Can you help him make his deliveries?



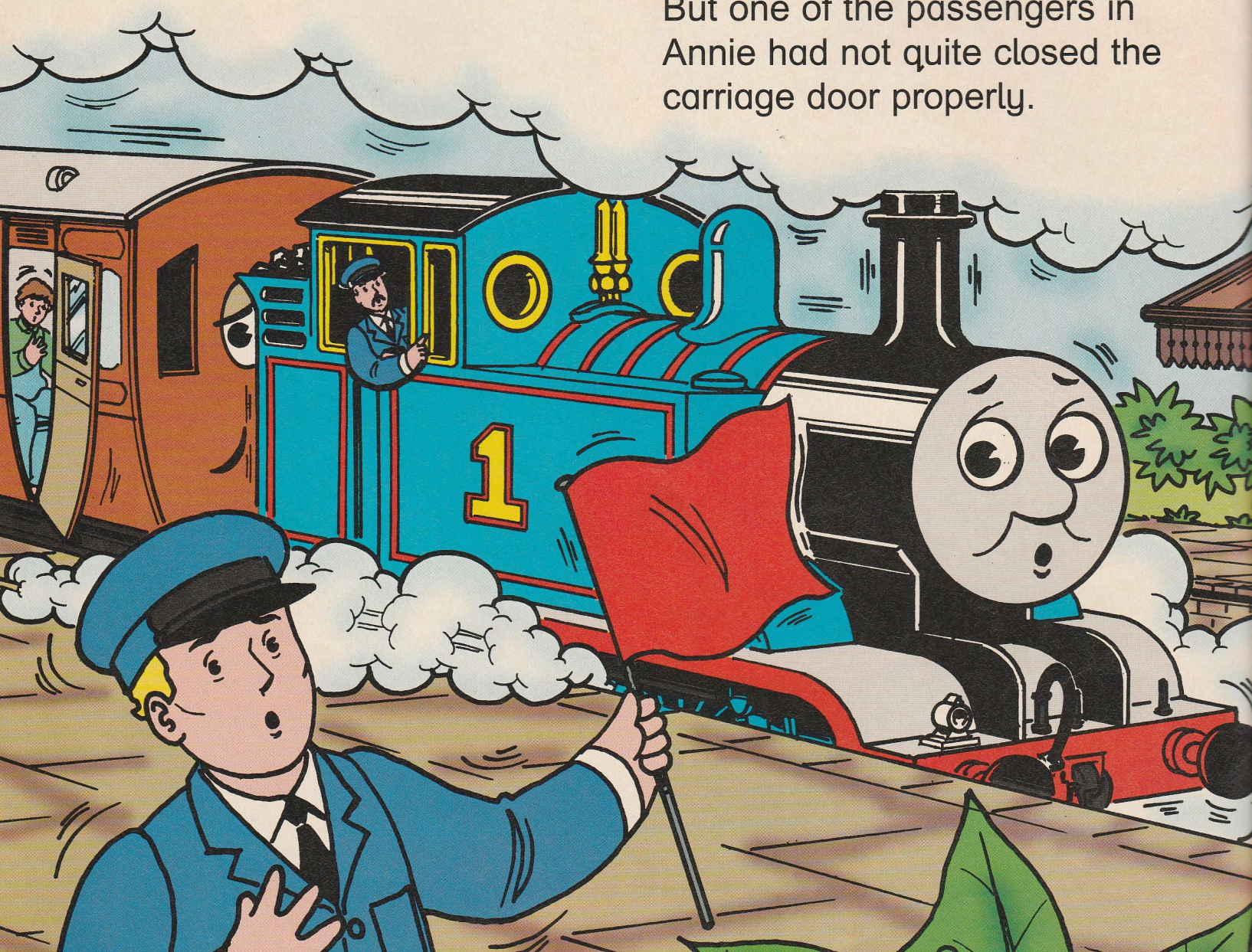

MILK
CLAY
G W R
8
FACTORY
ORCHARD
GROCERS
ENGINE SHED

Flag Waving!

Thomas was taking his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, along his branch line. As the little tank engine pulled into Wellsworth Station to collect some passengers, the guard unloaded some parcels for the Stationmaster. Then he helped a man and a woman put their bicycles into the guard's van.

"Can I get underway yet?" Thomas called impatiently to his driver. "I don't want to be late!"
"Not until the guard gives the signal for the all clear," replied Thomas' driver. "He's really busy and his job is very important!"

At last, everyone was safely on board. Thomas began to pull away from the station platform. But one of the passengers in Annie had not quite closed the carriage door properly.



Suddenly it swung open. The guard on the platform saw the danger right away. He waved his red flag and the driver pulled the brake to stop the train. Thomas' wheels squealed to a halt.

"That gave me a shock," Annie told Thomas. "Thank goodness for the guard!" Thomas agreed. The guard made sure the passenger was not hurt and then closed the carriage door. He blew his whistle and, this time, waved a green flag to tell Thomas' driver it was now safe to leave.

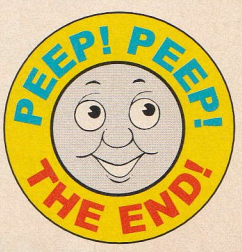
The Fat Controller heard what had happened."You did very well," he told the proud guard.

That afternoon, he announced that there was to be a football match between some of the the engine crews. "I will be the referee," he said.

A few days later, after work, Thomas took all the railway staff to a station near the football pitch. Lots of people were going to watch the match.Thomas also watched, as he stood in a siding. He saw his driver and fireman walk on to the pitch with the other players. They wore football boots and shorts. The guard from Wellsworth station joined them. He was still carrying a flag. "Why does he need that?" called Thomas, puzzled. "He's helping me referee the game," the Fat Controller explained.

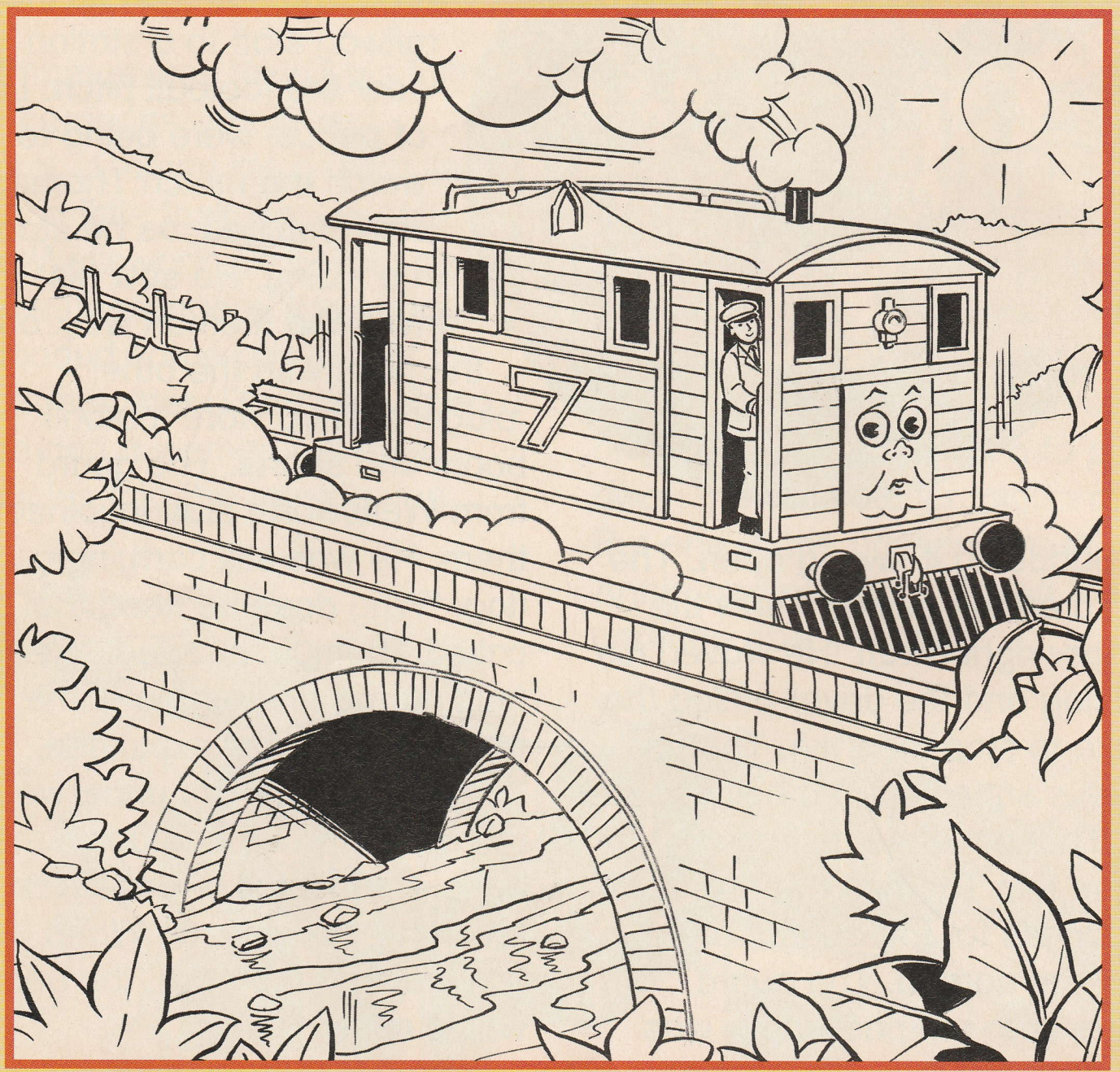
As the match got underway, the guard ran up and down the edge of the pitch, on one side, following the players. When the ball went off the pitch, the guard would raise his flag.

After the football match was over, everyone returned to Thomas. He was going to take them home. They had all enjoyed themselves very much, especially the guard. "Being a linesman was the perfect job for me," he laughed. "I'm used to waving a flag!"



A read & colour story

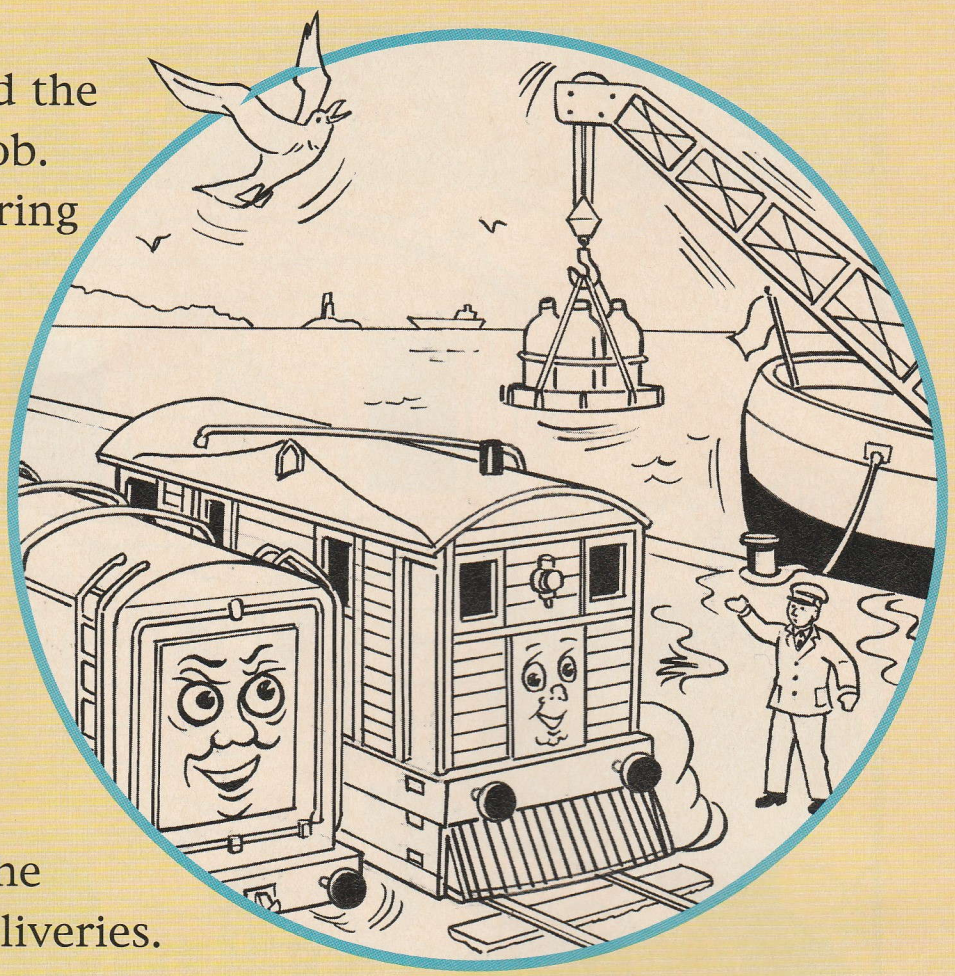
Singing In The Rain!

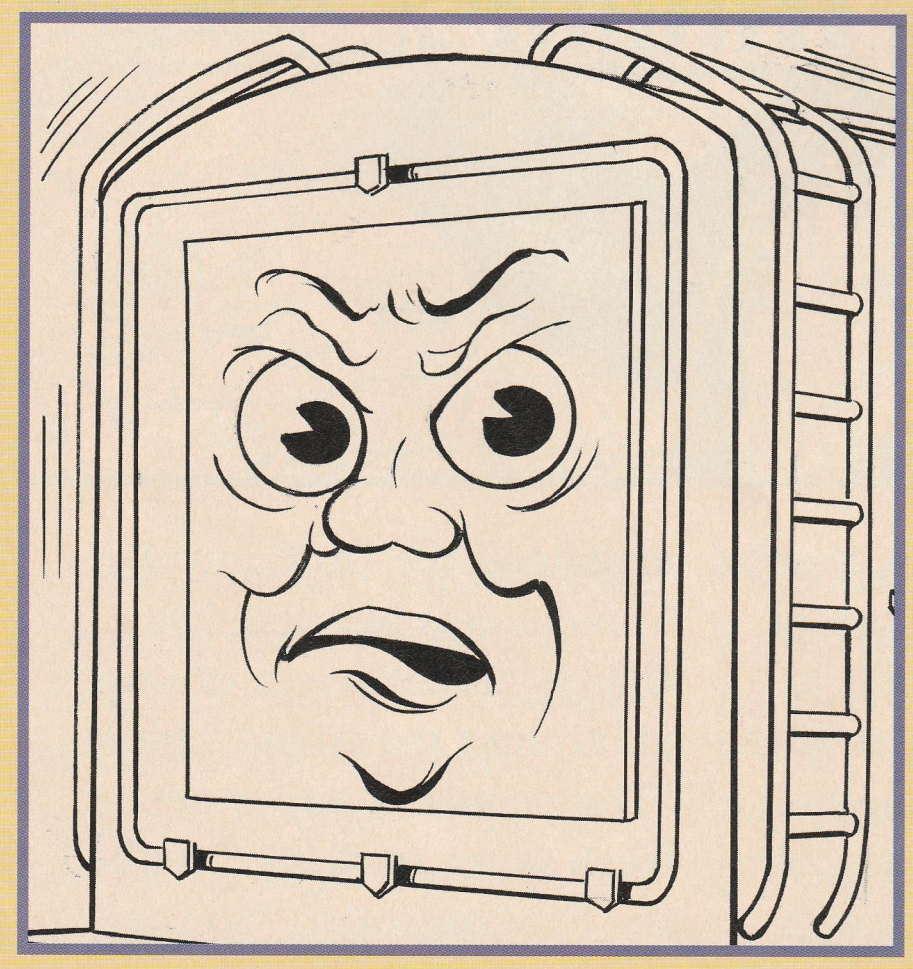


1 One summer's day, Toby the tram engine puffed along his track. "I'm very hot," he said to his driver. The sun shone brightly. The grass on the hills had turned brown, and the leaves on the trees were shrivelling up. Toby arrived at his bridge. Usually, the river flowed beneath the bridge. But the river had dried up to a tiny trickle. "We need some rain," said Toby's driver. "Rain will fill the river and make the grass and trees green again—and it will cool you off when you get hot."

2 At the Main Station, the Fat Controller had an important announcement. "There is a drought on Sodor," he told the engines. "What's a drought?" asked Toby. "A drought means that we haven't had enough rain, and people need water," explained the Fat Controller. Thomas was puzzled. "But there's an entire sea of water all around the island," he said. "The people of Sodor need fresh water to drink," replied the Fat Controller, "So they need your help."

3 Toby, Thomas and the others had a special job. The boats were delivering big bottles of water to the harbour. The engines had to take the bottles from the harbour to all of the different stations on the Island. Toby liked delivering the bottles of water. "Thank you very much!" everyone said. For three days, the engines made their deliveries.



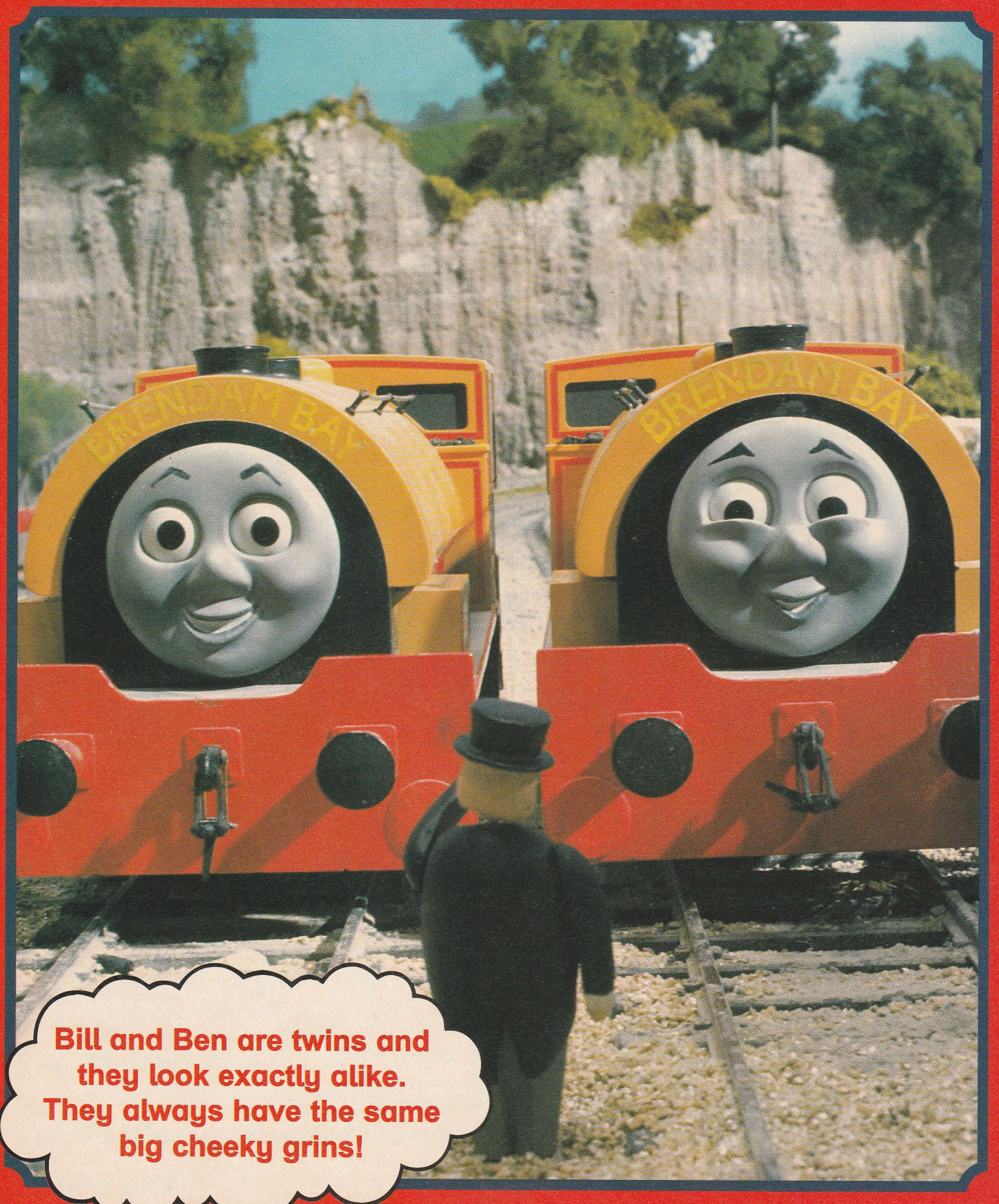


4 "It's too hot to be working," Diesel kept grumbling. "Yes, but this is a very important job," said Toby. He was proud to be helping. Then, on the third night, when all the others were asleep, Toby was woken up by a strange noise. Tap. Tap. Tap. "What's that?" he thought. He knew he'd heard the noise before, but he couldn't think what it could be.

5 The tapping seemed to be on the roof of the shed. Then suddenly, Toby realised it was raining! The rain continued all the next day and the next. The sky was grey and cloudy, and the rain poured down. But Toby and the other engines were glad to see the rain. They didn't need to deliver any more water, and went back to work as normal. Toby was so pleased to see the rain that he sang a little song as he puffed along his track. "It's raining, it's pouring. La-la-la. Soon the grass will be green and the river will be flowing. La-la-la!"

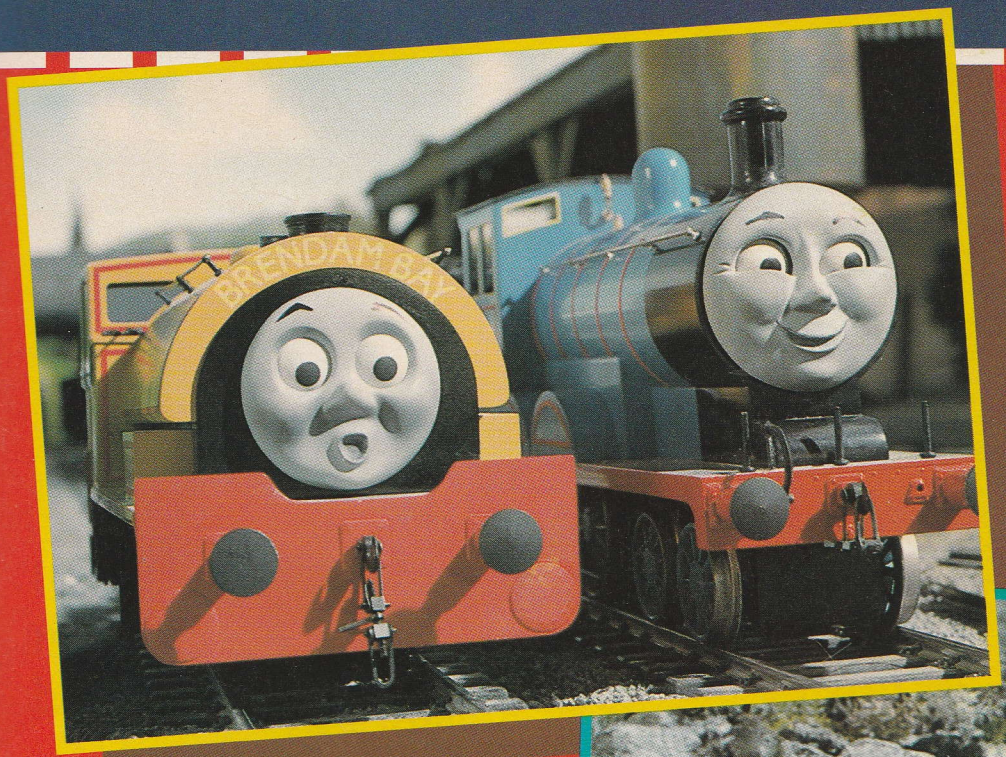
The end

All about



Bill and Ben are twins and they look exactly alike. They always have the same big cheeky grins!

Bill & Ben!



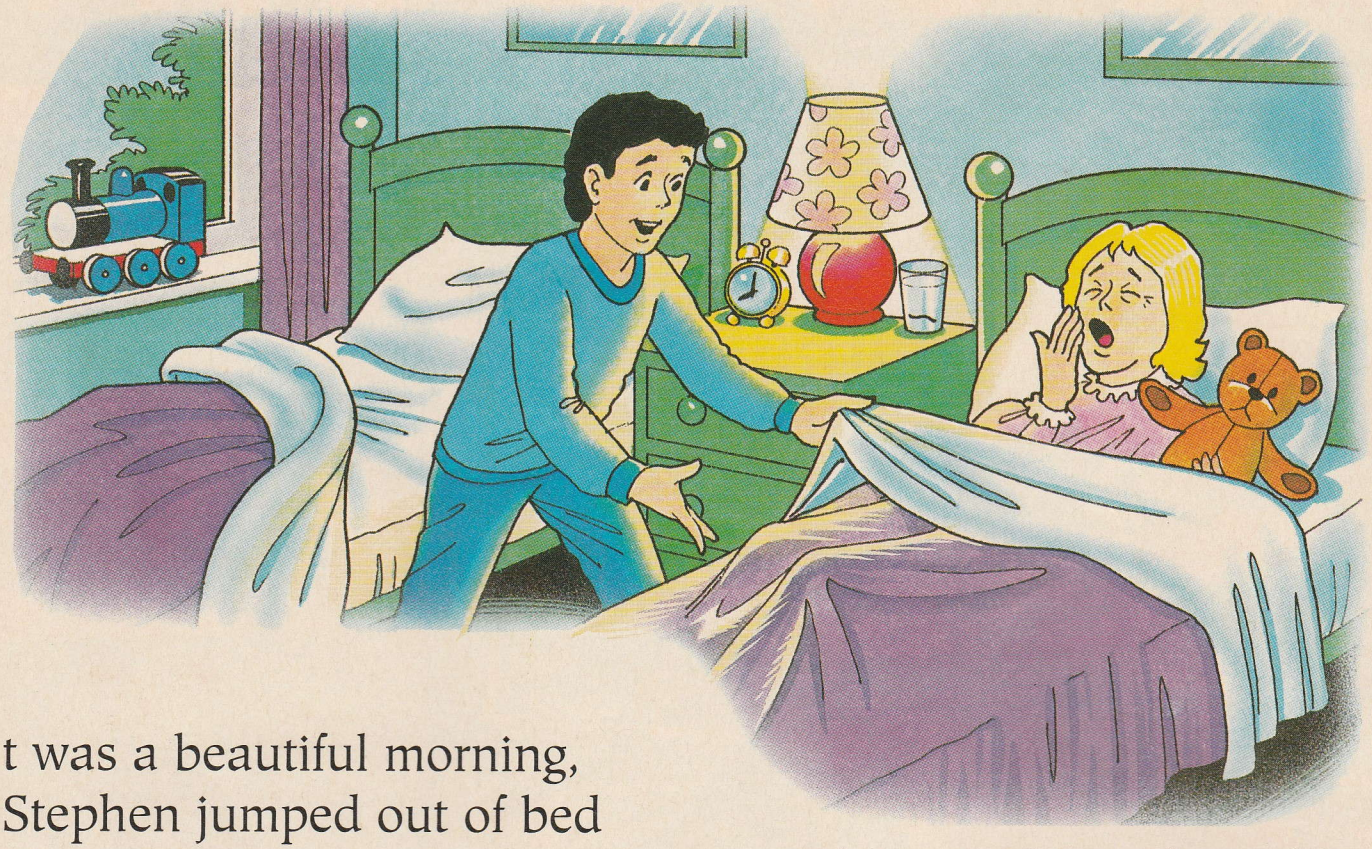
The twins are the most mischievious engines on the railway. They love to tease the others and always enjoy playing pranks!

Bill and Ben work between the clay pits of the Sodor China Clay Company and the harbour where they can't get up to too much mischief!

Win a model Bill or Ben!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Bill or Ben from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Bill & Ben model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: August 2nd 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Bill or Ben!

Lost Property!

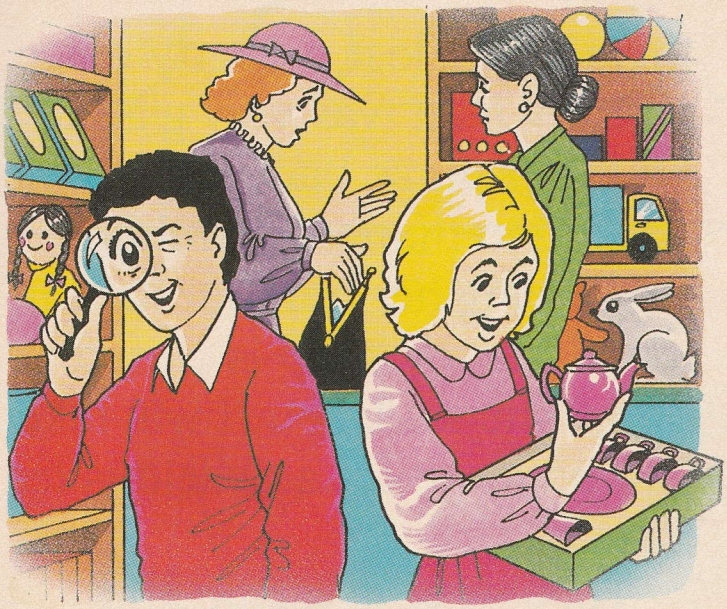


It was a beautiful morning, Stephen jumped out of bed early. "Wake up Bridget," he cried, "It's Saturday!" The children were both very excited. Lady Hatt had promised to take them shopping in Wellsworth. She was going to buy them both a treat!

They got dressed quickly and went down to breakfast. "We had better hurry," said Lady Hatt. "The train leaves for town in half an hour!"

James, the red engine, was already waiting impatiently at the station when they arrived. They jumped aboard and set off on their way. They had been in too much of a rush to buy their tickets at the ticket office, so Lady Hatt bought them from the conductor on the train.

Before long, James pulled into the station in Wellsworth. Stephen and Bridget were so excited they could hardly wait

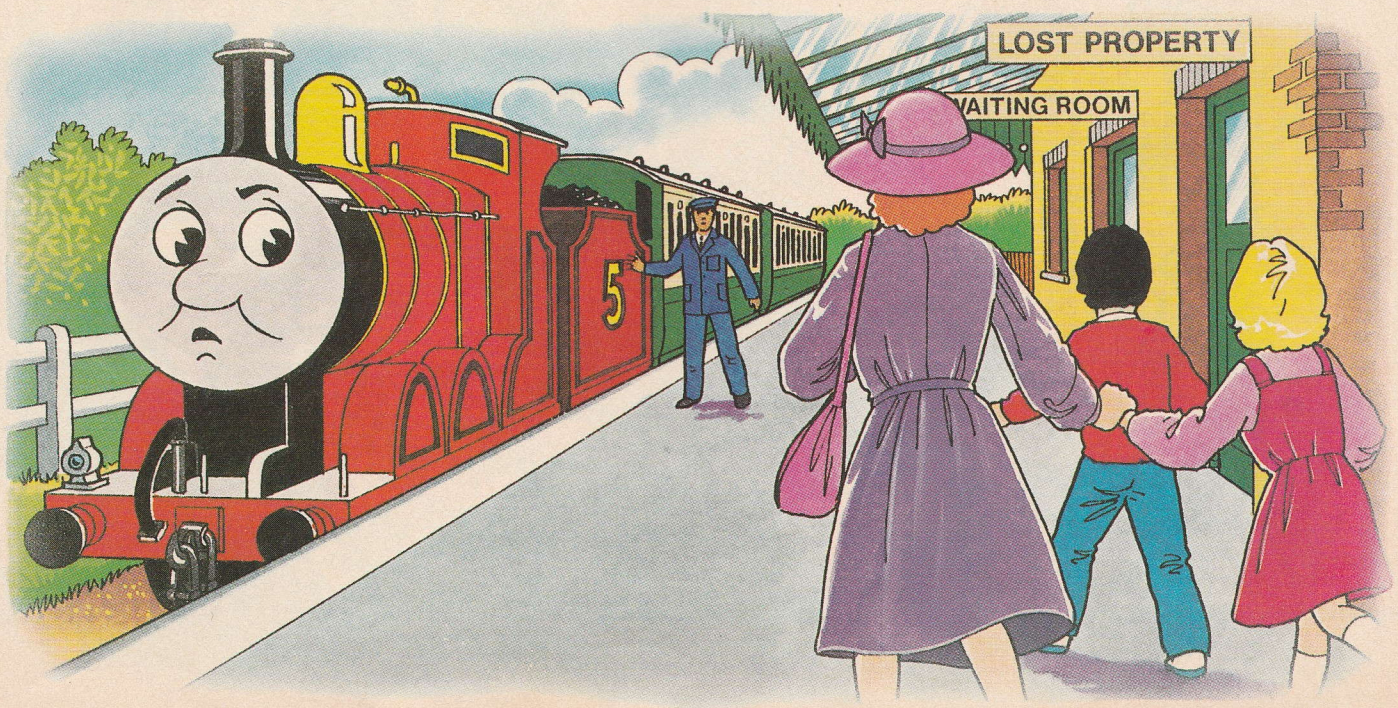


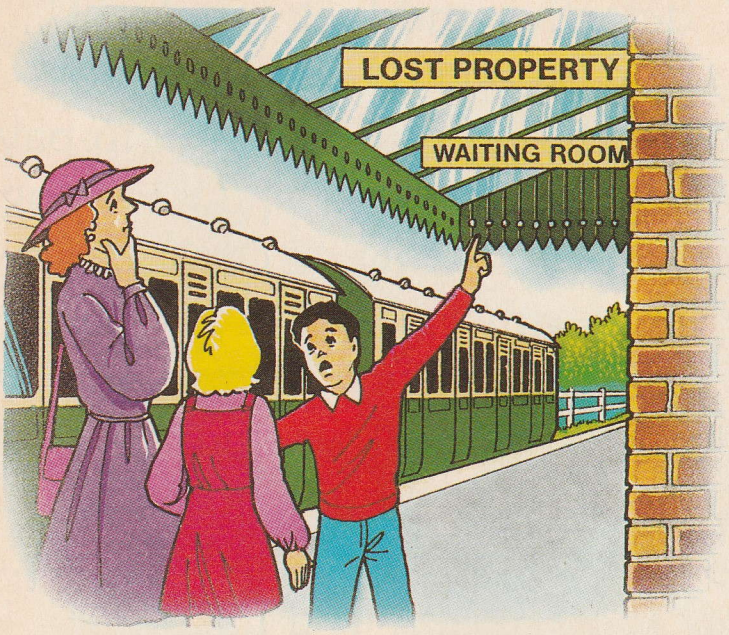
to get to the toy shop. "Wait for me!" cried Lady Hatt as she hurried along behind them.

When they had had a good look around, Lady Hatt asked them what they wanted to buy. "I would like a doll's tea set please," said Bridget. "And I would like this magnifying glass so I can pretend to be a detective and look for clues!" said Stephen. Lady Hatt took the things to the counter to pay. "Oh dear!" she gasped, looking in her handbag. "I can't find my purse anywhere! I'm very sorry children, I won't be able to buy your toys until we find it."

Stephen thought for a moment. Then he had an idea. "The last time you had your purse was when you paid the conductor for our tickets. You must have left it on the train!"

They all hurried off to Wellsworth Station. Luckily, James was waiting in the siding until it was time to make the journey back again. They looked everywhere in the carriage where they had been





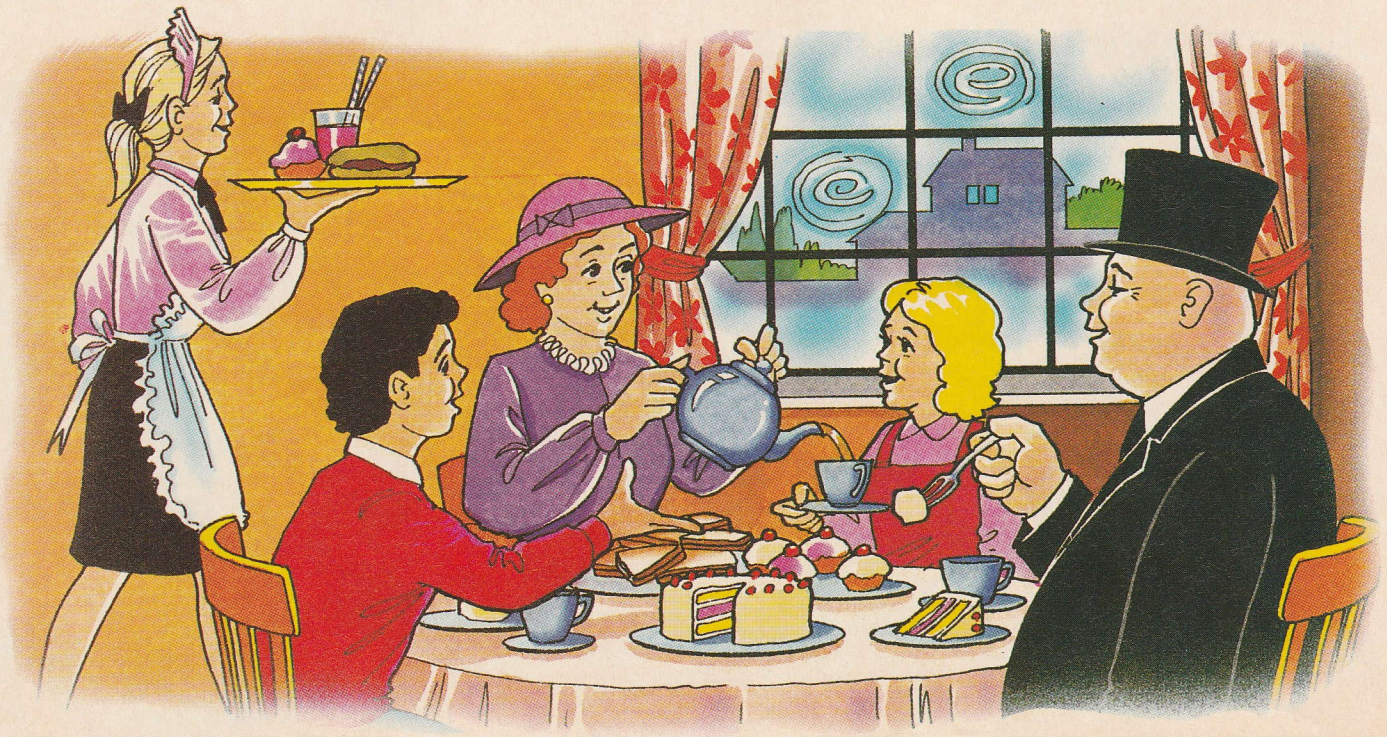
sitting, but there was no sign of the purse.

They were standing on the platform wondering what to do next, when Stephen had another idea. "Let's look in the lost property office," he said. "You're in luck! It's just been handed in," the guard told them at the lost property office.

Lady Hatt was very glad to have her purse back again. She wanted to thank the children for helping her hunt for it. "I'm afraid the toy shop is closed now," she said, "but I will take you both out for a delicious tea instead!"

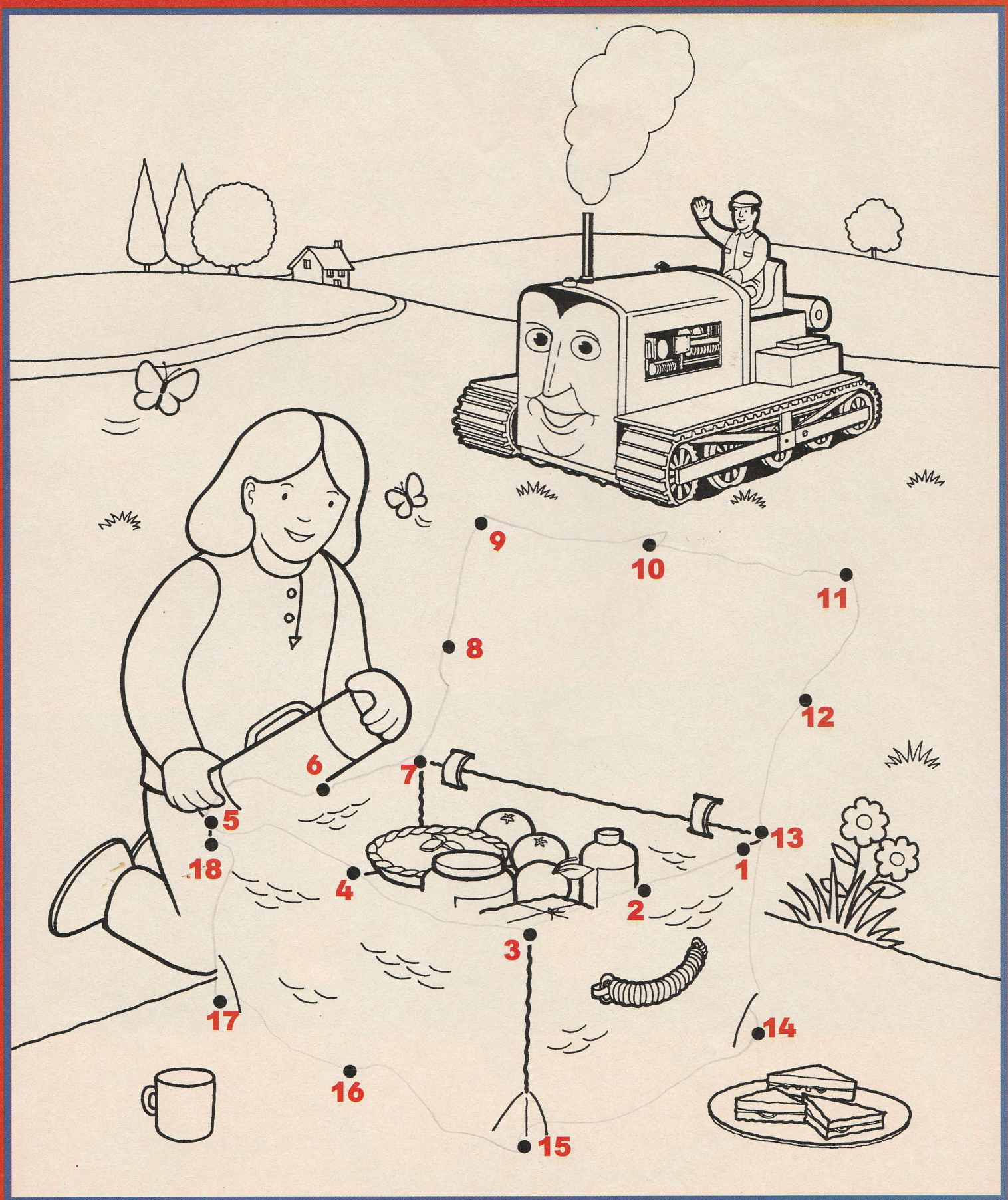
They went to a cafe and ordered cakes and buns and sandwiches. Stephen and Bridget agreed that it had been a great day out after all. "I had to be real detective when I looked for the purse!" said Stephen. "And I had a real tea party with a real tea set!" laughed Bridget.

THE END



Dot to dot!

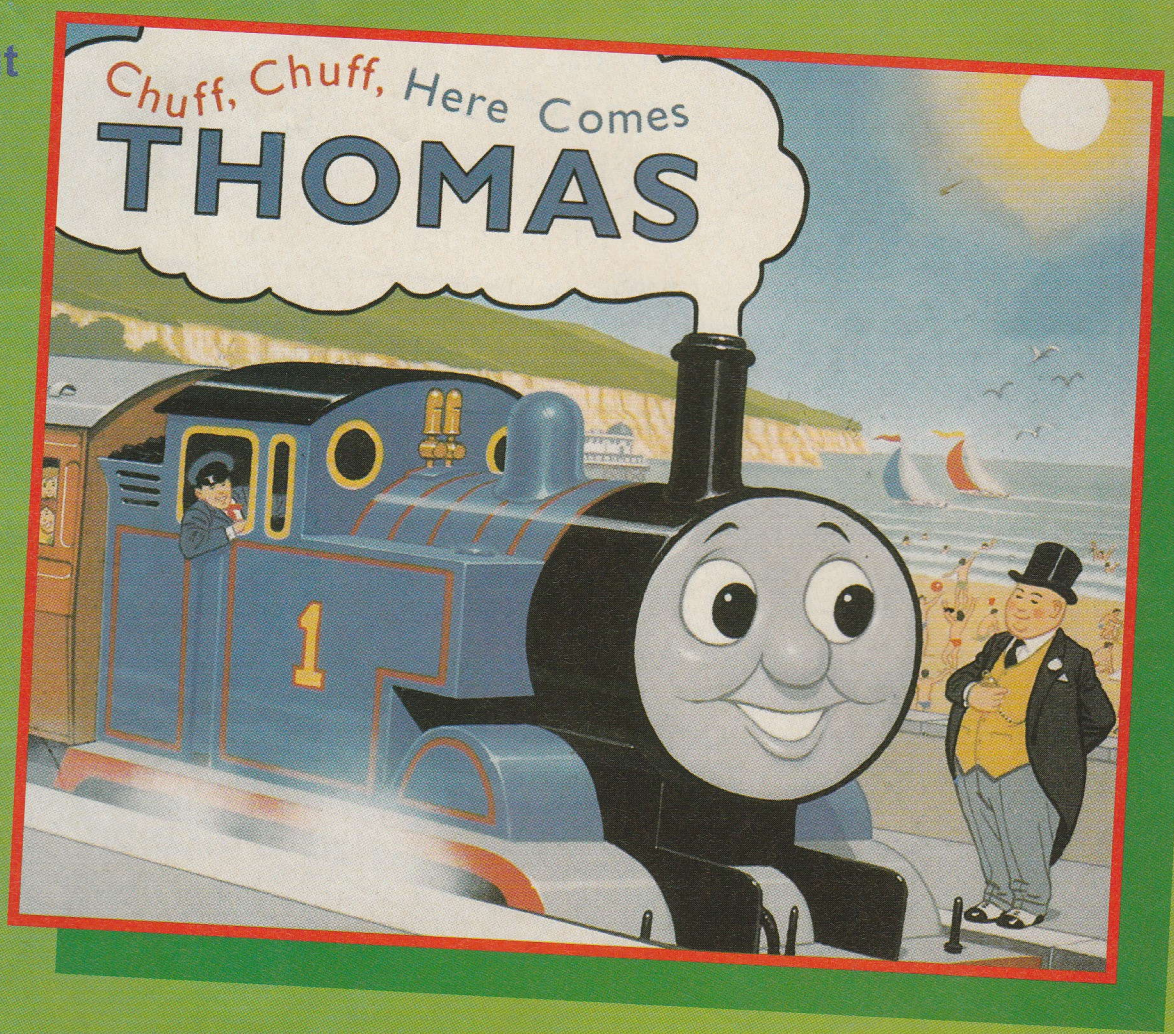
Where has Bridget packed her tea? Join the dots so that you can see!



When you have finished colour this page!

Chuff Chuff Here comes Thomas!

Chuff, chuff - what's all that noise? It's Thomas the Tank Engine, with his faithful coaches puffing along behind him. 10 lucky readers can win this fantastic sound story book from Reed Books. Press a button and make a train noise while you read about Thomas' seaside adventure!



To win, simply answer this question:

What colour is Oliver?

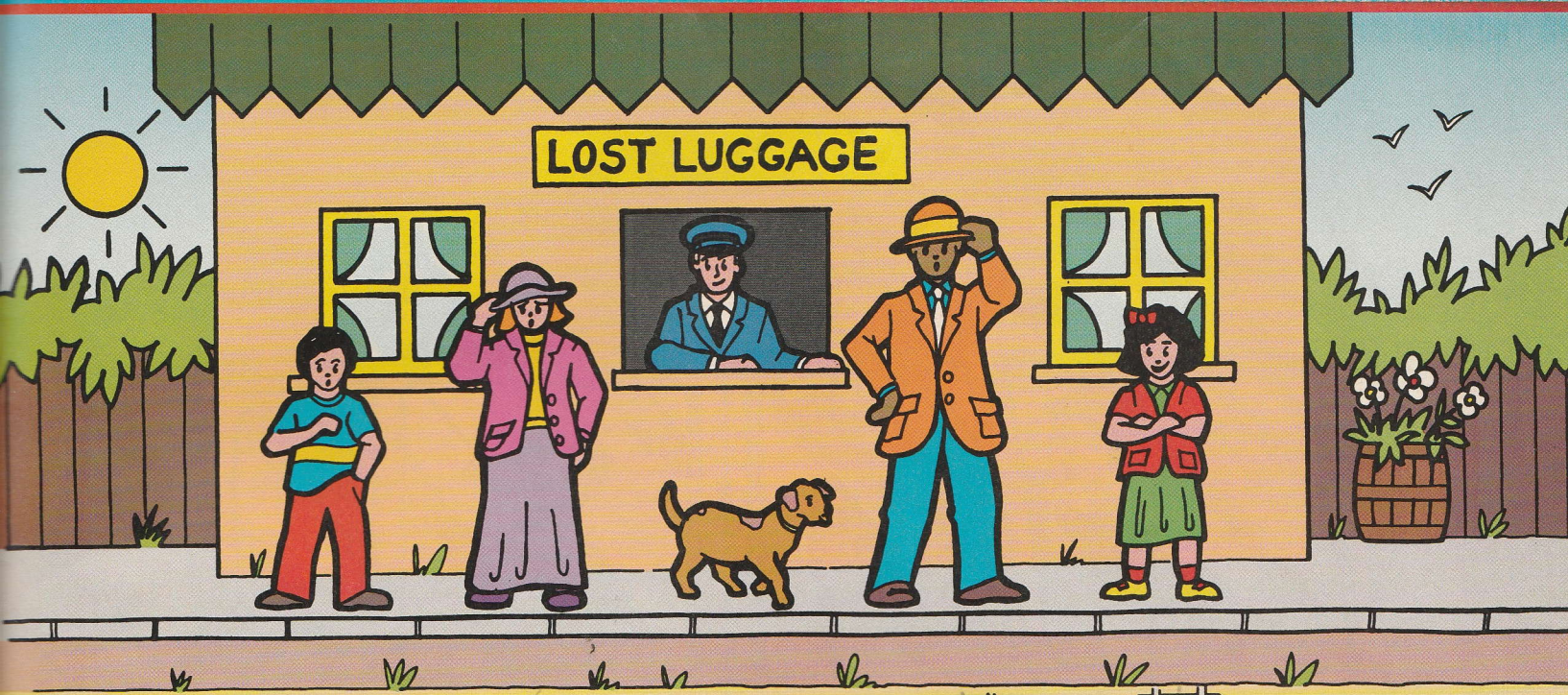
a Blue **b** Red **c** Green

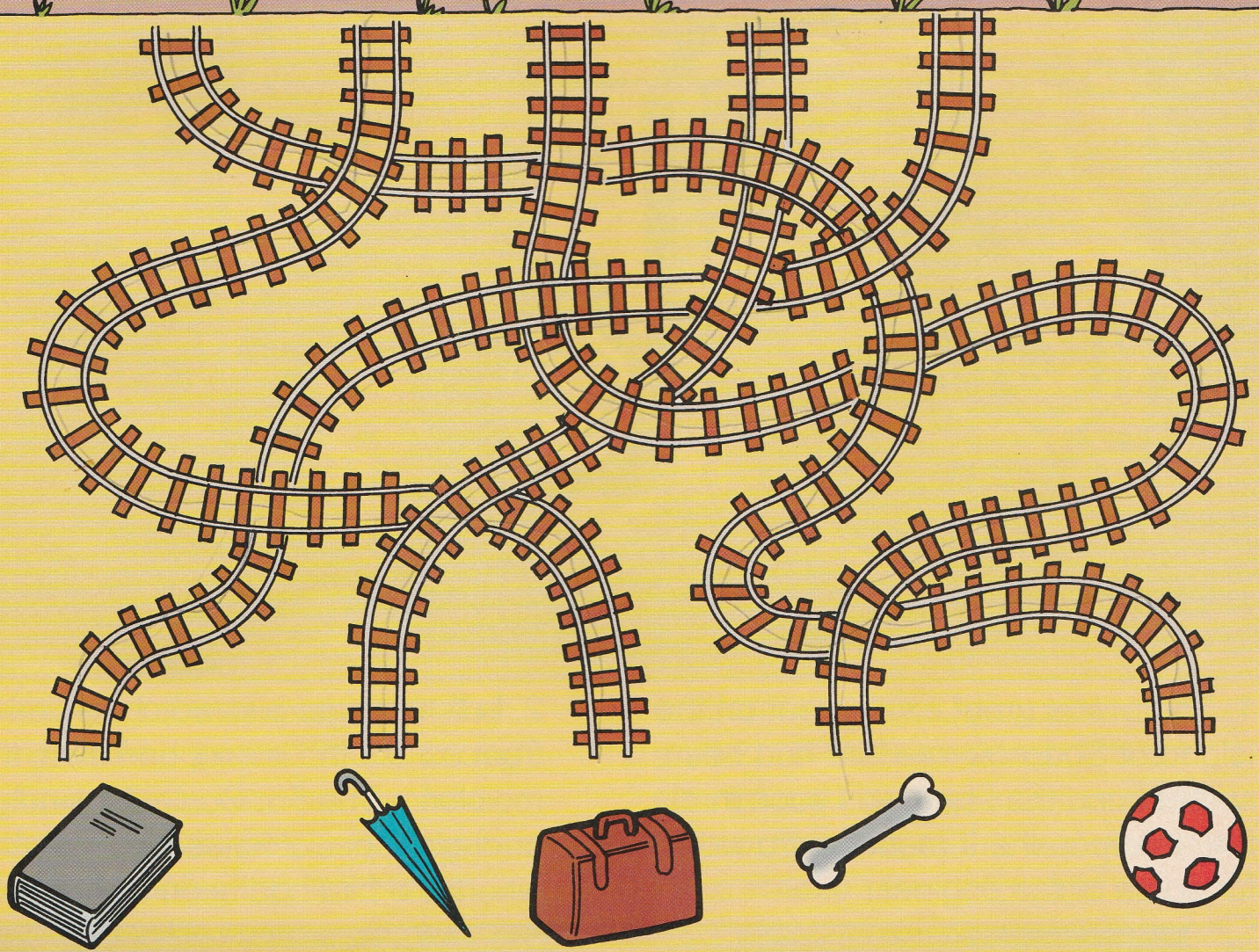
Put your answer on a post card, including your name and address, and send it to; Reed Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. All entries must be received by 2nd August 1996.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

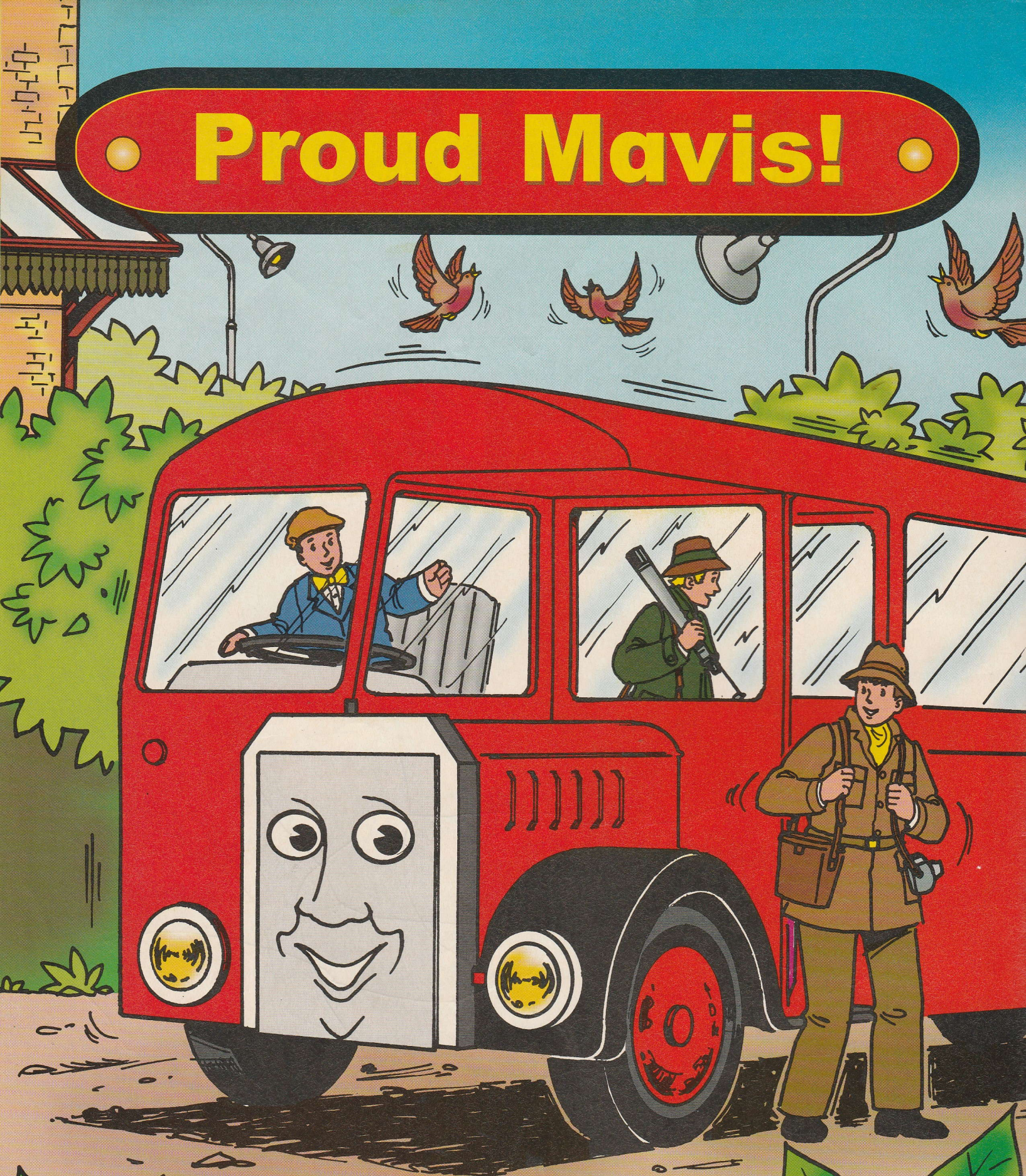
Lost luggage!

Can you follow the tracks and see which piece of luggage belongs to each passenger?



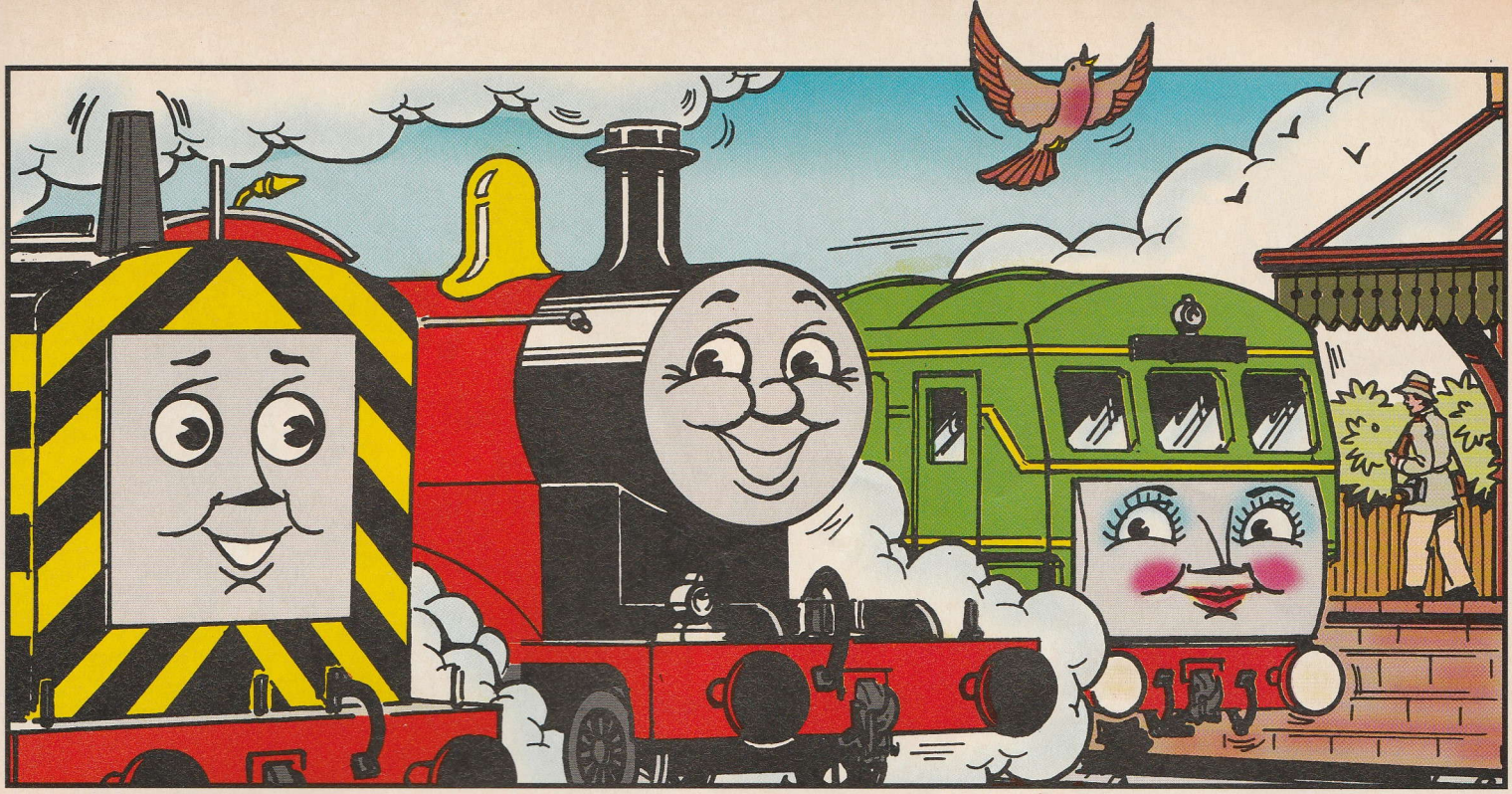


Proud Mavis!



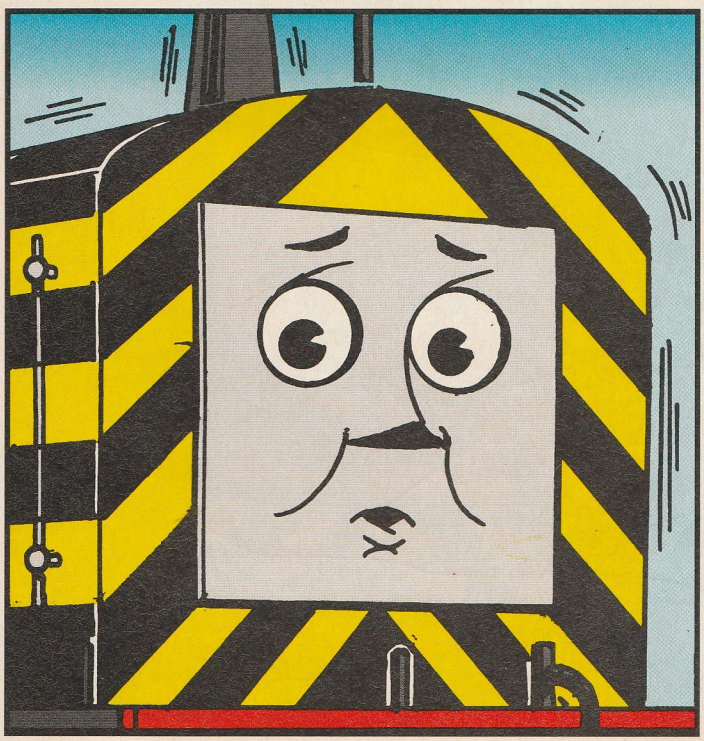
1. There was great excitement on the Island of Sodor. A rare bird had been spotted and the story was soon in all the newspapers. It meant extra work for some of the engines.

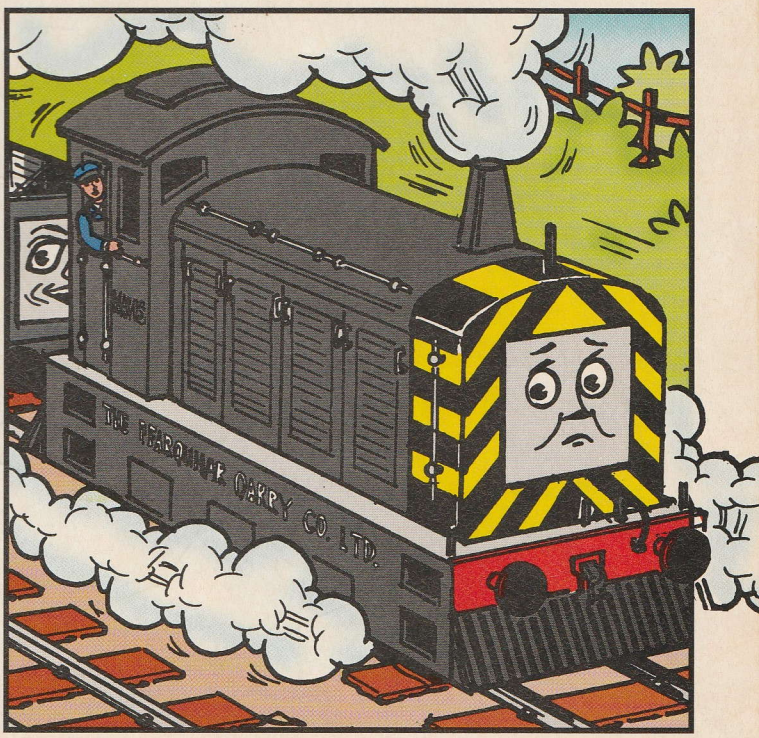
2. Lots of eager bird-watchers came from across the island, and even the mainland. The Fat Controller kindly arranged special trains to take them to where the bird had been sighted.



3. Every day, hopeful bird-watchers arrived at the Main Station. They carried binoculars and cameras. The Fat Controller chose Daisy and James to pull the special trains.

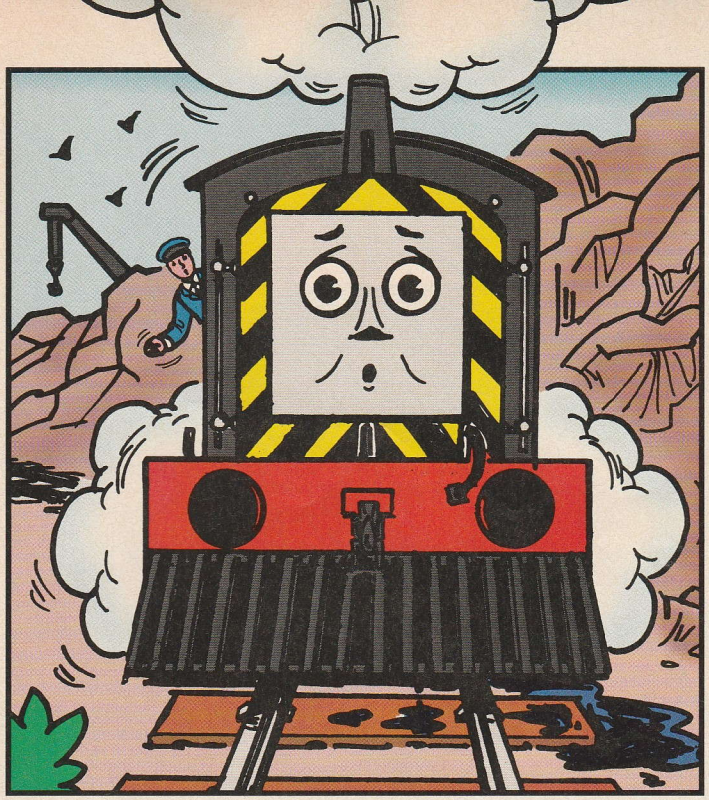
4. But so far, the bird had not been seen again. "I'm sure to be the first engine to spot it," sniffed Daisy. "Oh, no, you won't!" replied James. "I wish I could," said Mavis.



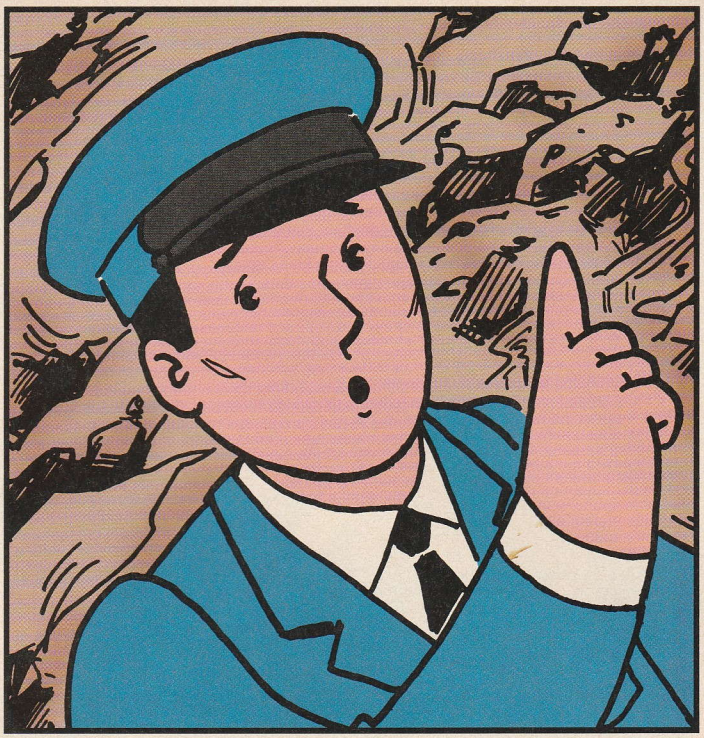


5. "You're too busy working at the quarry," said James. "That's a long way from where we take the bird-watchers." Mavis was sad. Later, James and Daisy left the station.

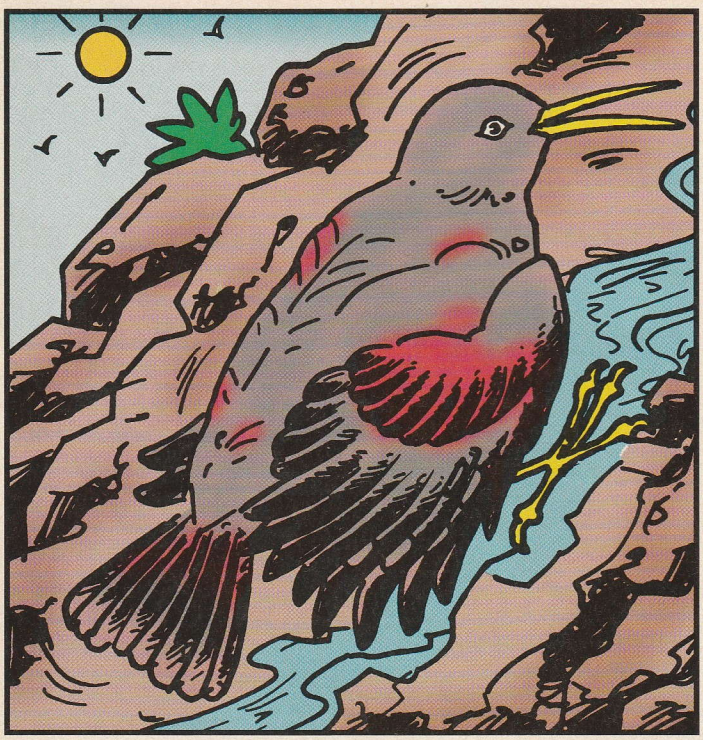
6. "James is right," thought Mavis, setting off for the quarry. "It's a shame the Fat Controller won't let me carry some of the bird-watchers. I'm a Really Useful Engine, too."



7. Toby had gone to the Big Harbour, so Mavis worked all alone by the quarry. To make things worse, she began to leak oil. Mavis rolled into a quiet siding and came to a halt.



8. "I'll have to go and fetch help," said her driver. He left Mavis all alone. "Now I'm a Really Useless Engine," she sighed. Nearby, some water trickled down a rocky cliff.

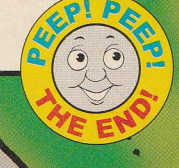


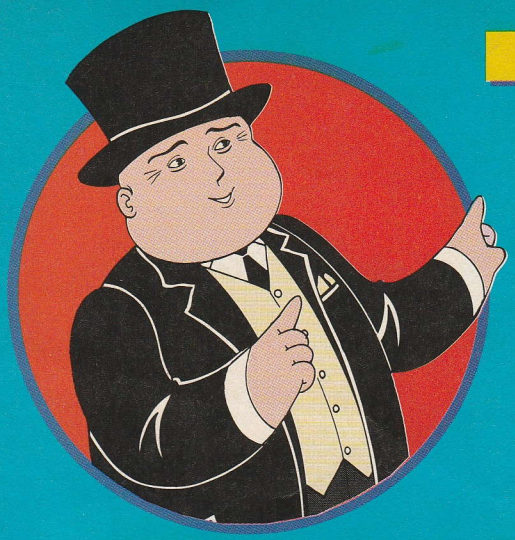
9. Later, a colourful bird appeared. It climbed the rock face to drink and search for insects to eat. Mavis did not notice the little visitor until it made a clear piping noise.

10. Its wings were red and black, with white spots on the tips and tail. Then the bird landed on one of Mavis' buffers. "Hello!" said Mavis gently. "It's nice to have company."

11. Next moment, her driver brought the Chief Engineer. "I'll soon have you mended, Mavis," he called. His voice startled the bird which quickly flew away. The astonished engineer saw it leave. "That's the rare bird that everyone has been talking about. It's a Wallcreeper!" he cried. "If only I'd got a better look at it!" "I did," Mavis told her driver proudly.

12. Later, Mavis returned to the Main Station. James and Daisy were there. When the bird-watchers heard what had happened, they wanted to go to the quarry. "It's only fair that Mavis takes some people," the Fat Controller said. Mavis felt very happy. "How did you know where to look?" James asked her. "A little bird told me!" teased Mavis.





The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

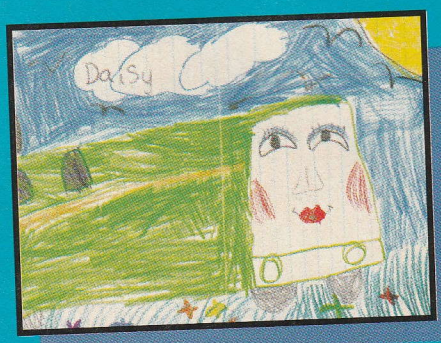
Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Out of all the engines, which is your favourite?
Love from Adam Hamid, aged 6

All my engines can be naughty sometimes but I don't have a favourite, I am fond of each and every one - even devious Diesel!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Madeline Lieberberg has sent us this beautiful picture of Daisy!



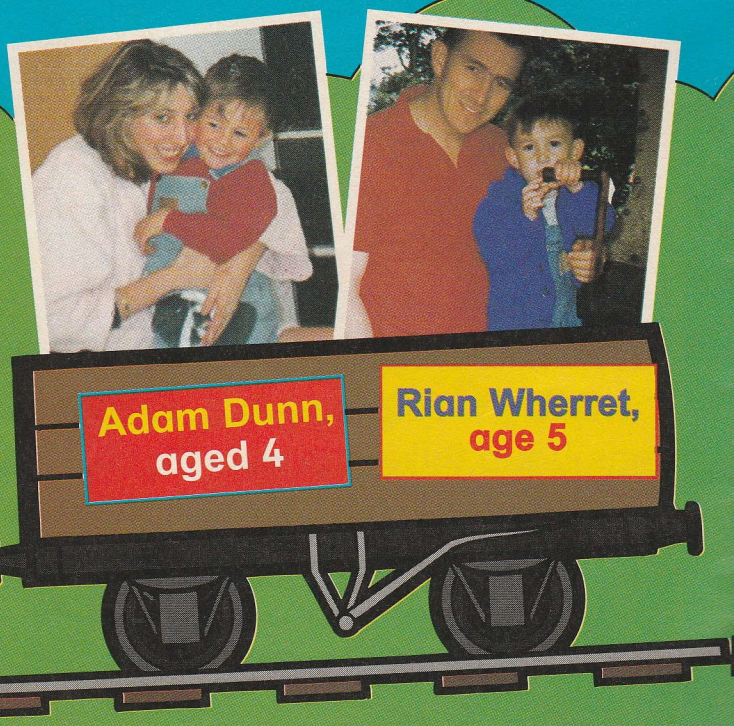
Prize Poem!

Thank you to Nita Harris, aged 7, for this wonderful poem!

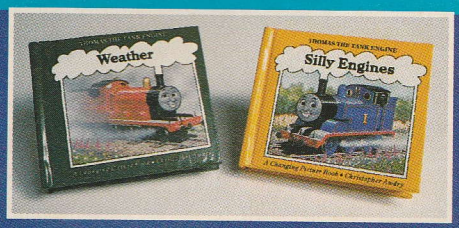
Donald and Douglas
love being twins,
They enjoy their naughty pranks,
Pretending to be the other one,
They confuse the other tanks.

Happy Birthday

To...Joseph Dyson, aged 4
Reece Oldroyd, aged 11
James Williams, aged 6
James Newcombe, aged 3

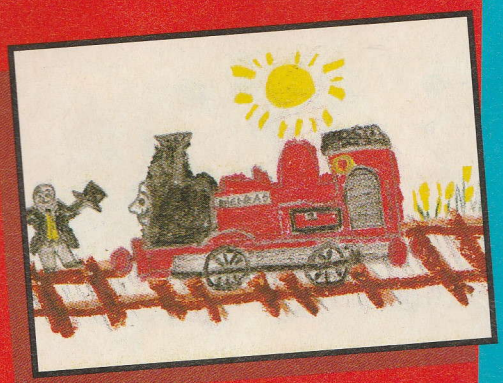


ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Reece Oldroyd, aged 10, has drawn a very smart Rheneas!



A splendid picture of Thomas by Thomas Payne, aged 3

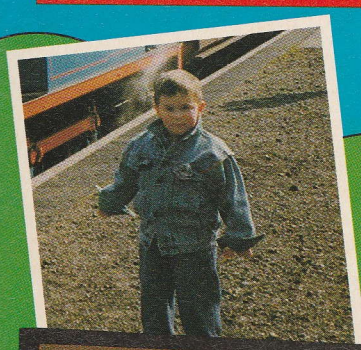
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What is the fastest kind of fish?
A motorpike!
Dirk Pitt, aged 7

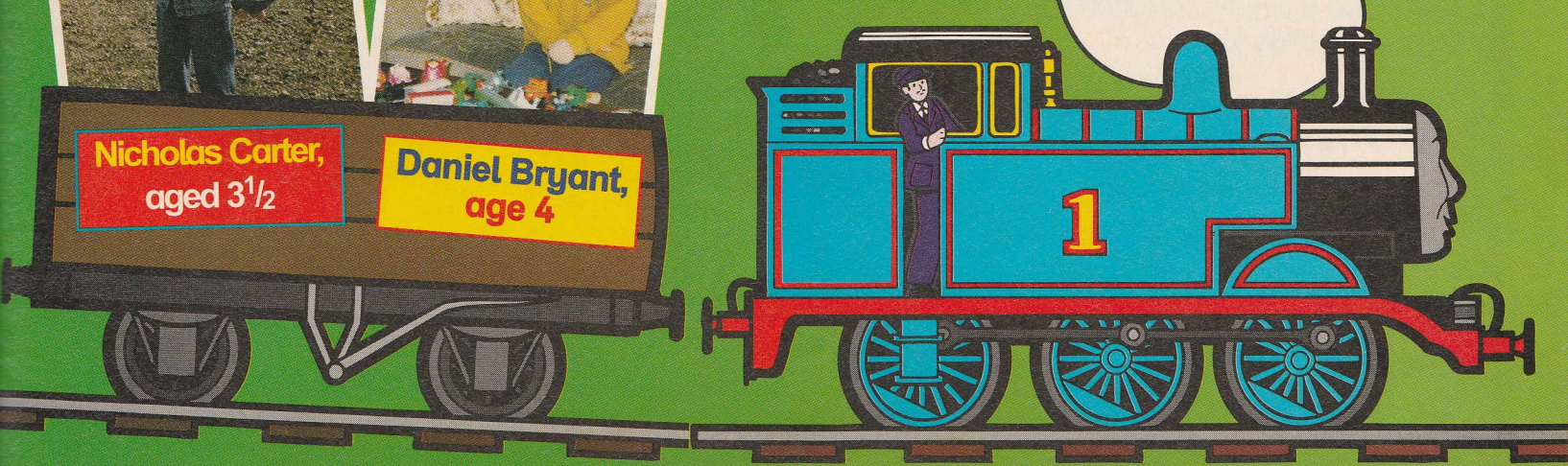
What is a rabbit's favourite sweet?
A lolli-hop!
Charles Crowe, aged 5

What nut does not have a shell?
A doughnut!
Jeremy Mann, aged 5



Nicholas Carter, aged 3½

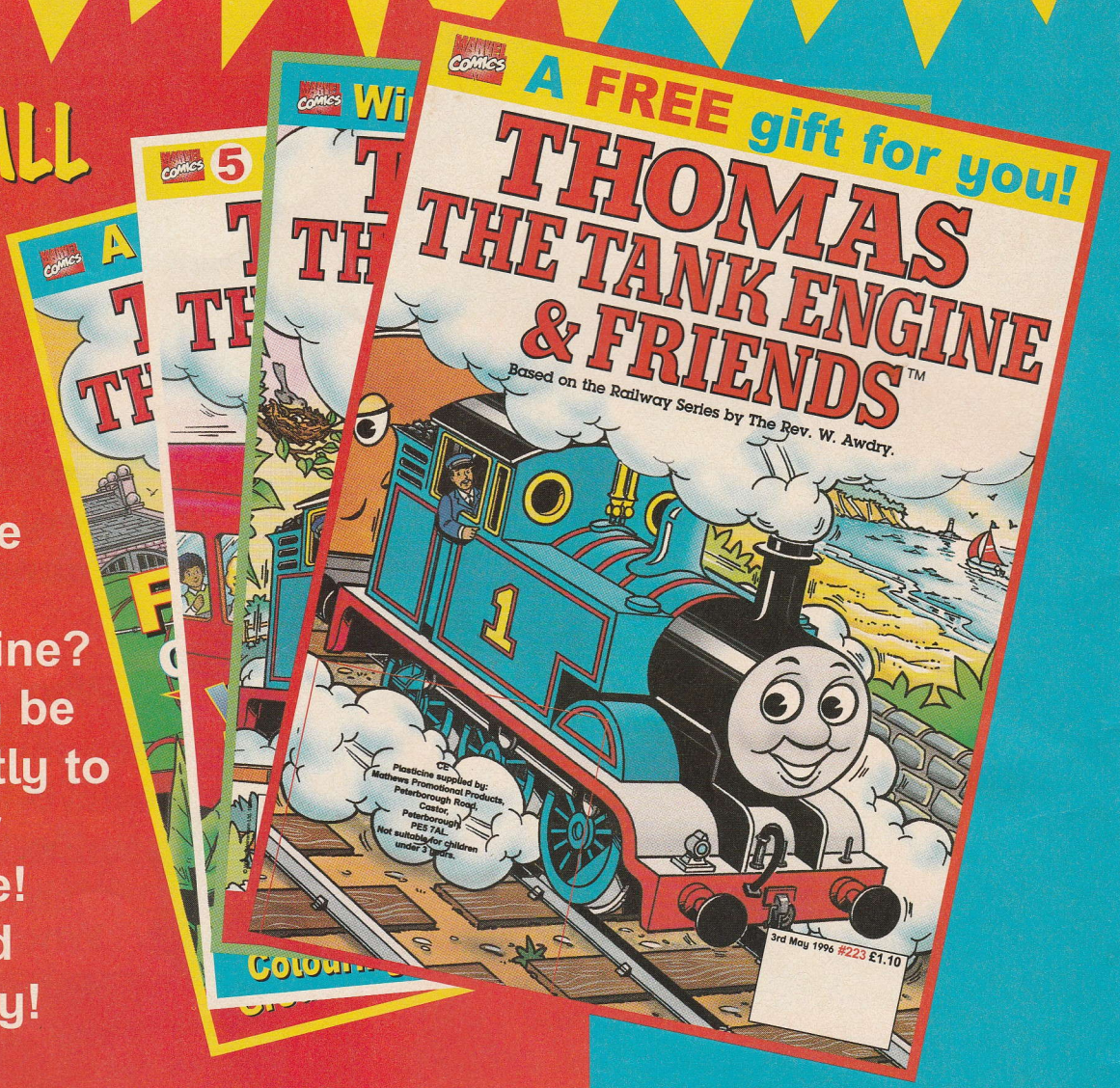
Daniel Bryant, age 4



2 FREE issues when you subscribe today!

"CALLING ALL PARENTS!"

Why not take out a subscription to the Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends magazine? Each issue can be delivered directly to your front door FREE of charge! Convenient and value for money!



Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months (24 issues) and receive 2 extra issues absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months (25th & 26th Issue FREE) for £26.40 Postage and packaging is FREE!

Child's name ..... Address .....

.....

..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

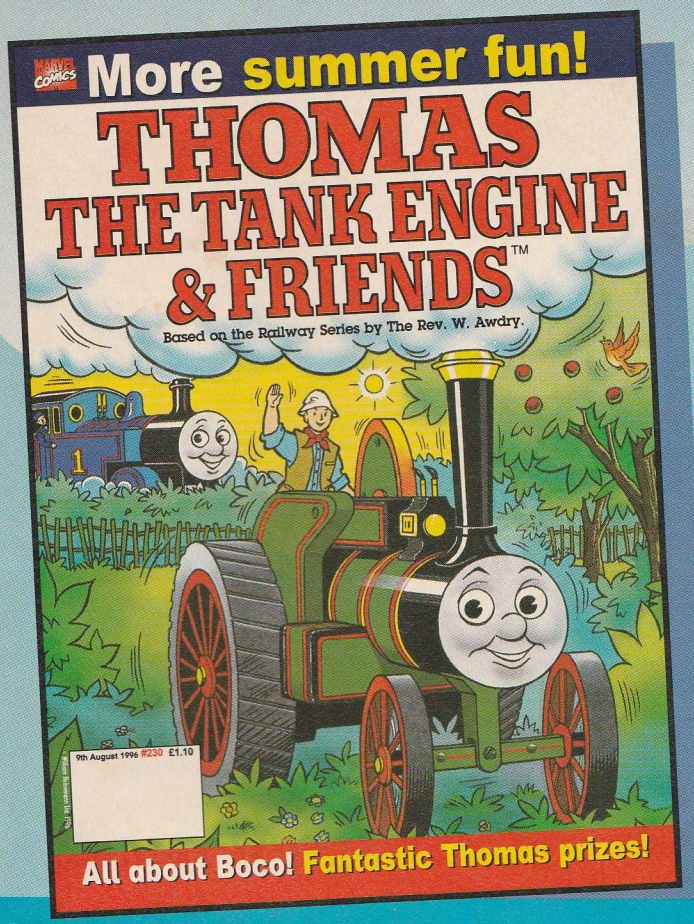
.....

.....Post code .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you wold prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

In issue 230 of . . .



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Brand new stories!

Fun puzzles!

Great colouring!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

On sale from 27th July 1996!

there's more
SUMMERTIME FUN
with
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

There are more Thomas Products for this summer. All are available by mail order from Adwell Systems Ltd. Send for our latest colourful Newsletter/Order Form. Also complete the coupon and post without delay or telephone your Credit/Switch Card order through on Tel. 01404 861363.

Products	Qty	Price
Beach Towel (123x61cm)		£11.49
Face Cloth (30x30cm)		£1.49
Swim Bag		£4.49
Twist & Drink Flask		£4.49
Kite (115x63cm)		£4.49
	Total	

P&P included - UK only. Allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Please make cheques payable to **'Adwell Systems Ltd'.** or Debit my Credit/Switch card, Visa, Access, Mastercard (delete as necessary).

Card Number:

Issue Num. (if shown): Amount: £

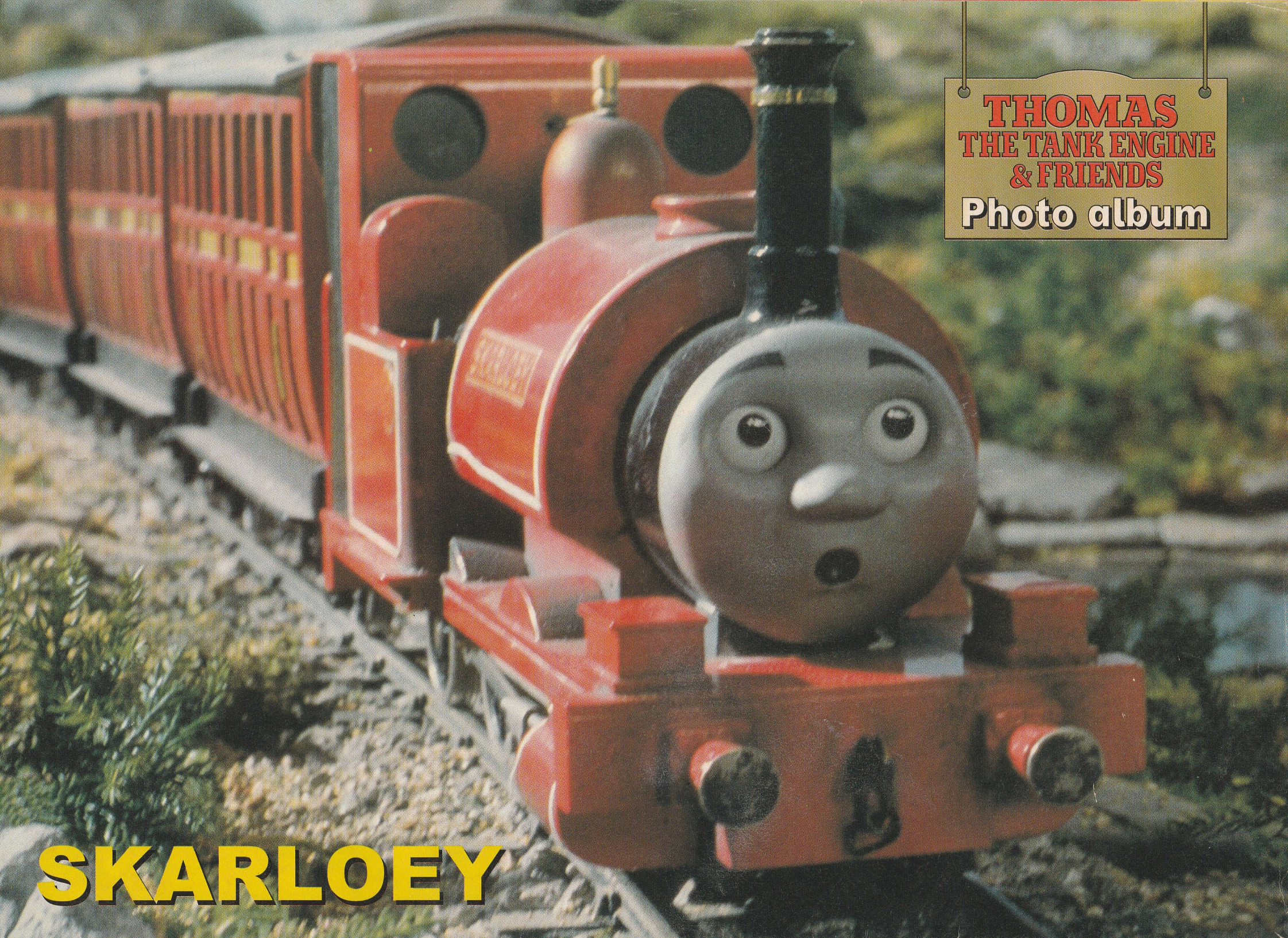
Expiry Date:

Name: Tel. No:

Address

Post Code:

Orders to: **Adwell Systems Ltd.**
The Old Vicarage,
Yarcombe
Devon EX14 9BD,
England
Fax: 01404 861 591
Tel: 01404 861 363
Overseas orders welcome


THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
SKARLOEY